

THE INDEPENDENT

Friday 7 November 1997

45p (IR50p) No 3,448

TODAY'S NEWS

Bank raises rates yet again

The Bank of England annoyed business, caught the financial markets unawares and brought the next rise in mortgage costs a bit closer yesterday when it increased interest rates to their highest level for five years. But the ritual complaints could not disguise the fact that the Bank's move under the new arrangements was a gentle application of the economic brakes. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee pushed interest rates a quarter point higher to 7.25 per cent yesterday, the fifth increase since 1 May. The cost of borrowing is now at its highest since the aftermath of the exchange rate crisis in 1992.

Even so, the big lenders held off increasing mortgage rates yesterday after the Nationwide and the Bradford and Bingley, the two biggest remaining mutual building societies, flung the gauntlet down to their competitors by promising to keep their loan rates unchanged at just under 8 per cent for now.

Brian Davis, chief executive of the Nationwide, said: "We can afford to let borrowers enjoy Christmas." But he warned that the society would probably have to follow the Bank of England's lead if it raises rates again in the New Year.

Many City analysts were surprised by yesterday's move because they had expected the recent stock-market turbulence to delay the rise in rates. Some reckoned, too, that policy was already tight enough to slow the economy to a steadier pace.

But the Bank's statement concluded another "modest" move was needed to keep underlying inflation on course for 2.5 per cent. It said the economy had been growing at an unsustainable rate.

Business reaction to yesterday's increase ranged from "slightly disappointed" to "concerned". Andrew Higginson, chair of the British Retail Consortium's economics committee, said: "It was a rise too far." There was no sign of overheating on Britain's high streets, he said.

The CBI expressed regret about the Bank's decision, but chief economist Kate Barker acknowledged that the tight jobs market did raise concerns about future inflation pressure. The Bank's announcement pointed to evidence of skill shortages as one reason for its decision.

The loudest complaints came from exporters, alarmed that high interest rates are keeping the pound painfully strong. Graham Mackenzie, director general of the Engineering Employers' Federation, said: "Exporters, already suffering reduced margins and loss of market share, will continue to be hurt."

— Diane Coyle, Economics Editor
City reaction, page 22

Smog at 3-year high

Britain's biggest cities have been experiencing smog just as bad as that in Paris last month when public transport was free and half the cars were forced off the road. Experts say the past few days have seen the dirtiest and most dangerous pollution for three years. Yet the Government has issued no warning. Page 7

Isaiah Berlin dies

Sir Isaiah Berlin, Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, the celebrated philosopher, historian, diplomat and political theorist, has died. He was 88. One of the most brilliant scholars of his generation, he has been described as Britain's greatest thinker. He was also a compelling speaker, and an amusing raconteur. Page 5; Obituary, page 18

Bentley to be cleared

More than four decades after being hanged for the murder of a policeman during a bungled robbery, Derek Bentley is likely to be cleared of murder posthumously. It is a considerable victory for the Bentley family. Page 6

SEEN & HEARD

He may be the very embodiment of an American Christmas, but the cheery, white-bearded, red-suited man is past it. Toys 'R' Us, America's largest toy retailer, is ditching Santa Claus, the New York Post said. He will not appear on their catalogues or stores this year. Instead, they are taking Christmas into the information age. References to Santa are being replaced with a toy registry for children. Instead of carefully penning their "Dear Santa" letters and dropping them off at stores, children can use hand-held scanners to register for toys.

WEATHER The Eye, page 30
TELEVISION The Eye, page 32
CROSSWORDS Page 30 and the Eye, page 29
Web address: <http://www.independent.co.uk>

Best of Blair's Britain? Images and icons meant to impress the French today



Bienvenue à la jeune Grande-Bretagne de Tony Blair! British-French summits generally take place in the oak-panelled and gilded silence of old country houses, like Ditchley Park in Oxfordshire, or at the equally traditional and splendid Lancaster House in London.

Mr Blair has ordered a change of tack, however. In keeping with his "young Britain" rhetoric, today's meeting with

the French Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, is being held on the 38th floor of the huge Canary Wharf tower in London's Docklands development.

It is not only home to newspapers like *The Independent*, the *Mirror* and the *Daily Telegraph*, but is generally considered an ambiguous monument to the Thatcher years. The Prime Minister, however, likes it for its breezily forward-

looking atmosphere and has had the empty floor of the stainless steel tower fitted out with showcase examples of new British design, art, furniture and textiles especially for the occasion. The idea is to show the French that the British now do it just as well, if not better. Here Sir Terence Conran, the restaurateur and style guru, sits surrounded by glimpses from the summit rooms.

IRA hardliners quit: but will it mean violence?

The significance of the resignation of several senior members of the IRA was being played down last night.

But, writes our correspondent, the breach represents the most serious and most public rift within the organisation's ranks for well over a decade.

At least two key members of the IRA leadership are reported to have quit the organisation in a disagreement over the Irish peace process, it was confirmed last night. Security and political sources were playing down the significance, pointing out that the dissidents have no apparent intention of linking up with other republican factions such as the Continuity IRA.

None the less, it poses fundamental questions about the control which Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness and their supporters exercise over the republican movement as a whole. Observers will be watching anxiously for any signs within the IRA or Sinn Féin of wider dissatisfaction with the peace process.

At the moment there is no indication that this parting of the ways is anything but peaceful. Republicans speak of those who have resigned as "stepping back" rather than defecting to other groups or planning to set up in opposition.

But, in the past, so many republican disagreements have led to violent feuding that everyone will be watching for any return to the gun.

While the current security assessment is that Messrs Adams and McGuinness remain firmly in command of the movement,

those who have departed were undoubtedly central figures within the IRA. One is a Co Monaghan man who is believed to have been chief-of-staff of the organisation for more than a decade. He reportedly relinquished that position about a year ago but remained a member of the seven-strong army council.

The second dissident, while not a member of the army council, held the key post of quartermaster-general with responsibility for the IRA's weaponry.

He and his girlfriend are both said to have stepped down from the army executive, a background committee which oversees decisions of the army council. Security sources say claims that anywhere between 20 and 200 IRA activists have

BY DAVID
MCKITTRICK

resigned are wildly exaggerated. There is no suggestion that the former quartermaster has taken any of the terrorist arsenal with him.

Security sources suspect, however, that there may have been a lower-level leakage of IRA material to the Continuity IRA, which has carried out several bombing attacks in recent months.

In at least one of these the bombers used Semtex, a plastic explosive which has in the past been the almost exclusive preserve of the IRA. The speculation is that someone in the IRA has been unofficially passing it on to the Continuity IRA.

The resignations are believed to have taken place at a recent important IRA

meeting in Donegal, which one source characterised as a meeting called by the republican leadership to deal with dissent in the ranks.

Much of the criticism is said to have crystallised around the action of Sinn Féin leaders in announcing their acceptance of the so-called Mitchell principles. These commit participants in the Stormont multi-party talks to the use of exclusively peaceful means as well as "the total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations". Signing up to such sentiments was a pre-requisite for Sinn Féin's entry into talks but it may have proved the last straw for the dissidents.

The last major split in the movement dates back to 1986, when more militant elements broke away to form a party known as Republican Sinn Féin. Ever since then the Adams-McGuinness leadership has gone to great lengths to avoid splits in the organisation, and to bring their entire grouping along in the peace process, which in republican terms has always been a highly sensitive undertaking.

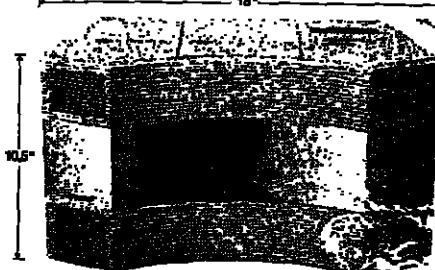
Irish government sources said they were not unduly alarmed about the resignations, pointing out that the ceasefire seemed secure and that the dissidents had not linked up with any other group.

Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach, said he was bound to be concerned about any difficulties which might jeopardise the peace process, adding: "But we are talking about a relatively small number of people. We should focus our efforts on the talks. People should understand that if we are to have any political progress and peace on this island the 'armed struggle' plays no part in that."

The former Taoiseach and Fine Gael leader, John Bruton, described the development as "very worrying".

Finally, you can expect superb sound wherever you are.

The Bose® Acoustic Wave® music system, the only thing that's limited is its availability.



Credit card-sized remote control makes it easy to enjoy hi-fi sound.

Bose introduces an easier, more convenient way to enjoy superb sound. Small and light, the Acoustic Wave® music system is a complete sound system. With two equalizers, three amplifiers, three speakers, an AM/FM stereo tuner, CD player and a credit card-sized remote control. Bose's patented Acoustic Waveguide® speaker technology delivers big, rich, lifelike sound. There are no cables to connect. No dials to adjust. Just plug it in and start enjoying it. Not found in any shops, this system is available only direct from Bose. For a free information pack, simply call freephone or send/fax the coupon below. Or to try it in your home for 14 days, satisfaction guaranteed, call:

0800 022 044

When calling, please quote the reference number in the coupon below.

Yes, Bose, it sounds good to me. Please send me more information about the Acoustic Wave® music system and the 14-day, satisfaction-guaranteed audition. Ref: 5332

Name _____ Mr/Mrs/Ms.

Tel. _____ day

Address _____ eve

Postcode _____

Please return in an envelope to: Bose, Freepost TK 1020, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 5UN. No stamp necessary. Or fax to: 0181 410 8411.

BOSE

COLUMN ONE

Shadow of Guinness curse looms again

The curse of the House of Guinness may be about to strike again. On the eve of publication of a long-awaited history of the Distillers' scandal by Lord Moyne, otherwise known as Jonathan Guinness of the Irish beverages dynasty, an investment company which he controls has been suspended by the Swedish stock exchange.

The Serious Fraud Office is now set to probe the affairs of Trustor, the Swedish based investment company in which the Tory peer acquired a controlling stake last June.

An investigation by the Fraud Intelligence Branch of the Swedish police in Stockholm has already begun into the alleged disappearance of £49m from the company's assets. The Swedish authorities have asked the SFO to establish whether funds were transferred from Sweden to an account in London, and if so to find where the money has gone since.

Sources at the SFO said that it would be able to deploy its special powers under section two of the Criminal Justice Act to try and follow the movement of the money. As a result of the "serious allegations", the Swedish stock exchange suspended trading in Trustor shares.

The investigation could not be worse timed for Lord Moyne (left) with the imminent publication of *Requiem for a Family Business*, his insider's account of the Distillers-Guinness takeover battle in the 1980s.

In the book, Lord Moyne, 67, a non-executive of the Guinness drinks group from 1961 to 1988, is set to reopen some old wounds.

He is unlikely, however, to criticise too strongly the actions of disgraced former Guinness chairman Ernest Saunders, who

is still on friendly terms with the peer and was allowed to see a draft manuscript of the book.

Lord Moyne is the eldest son of Lady Diana Mitford and the stepson of the British fascist leader Sir Oswald Mosley.

A former chairman of the Monday Club, the right-wing pressure group, his previous publications include *Shoe: The Odyssey of a States Survivor*. Lord Moyne's Scandinavian business ambitions have not been confined to Sweden. In July, he tried unsuccessfully to gain control of the Finnish sports company, Amer, which owns the famous Wilson brand.

He had been virtually unknown in the region until this summer when he spent around £20m to obtain a 52 per cent share of Trustor.

Despite being normally outspoken, he is declining to comment on the Swedish investigation. His publisher said yesterday that he was out of the country but expected to return to Britain today. The Old Etonian admits he lacks the business acumen of some of his Guinness forefathers - he once sold a Gainsborough portrait because he was "pushed" for cash - and has an interesting view on why the Distillers' scandal was allowed to happen. "The City got too lax. Distillers thought we were still gentlemen. Unfortunately, they had another think coming," he said in August.

No doubt, he will be hoping that the authorities will be suitably rigorous in attempting to discover what happened to the Trustor millions.

— Ian Burrell

CONTENTS

Leading stories	3	Space	16
Isaiah Berlin	5	Politics	17
News	6	Features	19
Environment news	7	Leader, Letters	20
Revolution	8	Comment	21
World news	9	Business	22-26
Clinton scandal	10	Sport	27-30
The way we live	11	Crossword	The Eye, 29
European news	13	Weather	The Eye, 30
Iraq	14	Television	
	15	and Radio	The Eye, 31-32

PEOPLE



Bob Marley who was elevated to the world stage by Chris Blackwell (inset)

Music boss Blackwell leaves his beloved Island

Chris Blackwell, the founder of Island Records and one of the legendary names in British music, is leaving the label, now owned by multinational company PolyGram.

In a terse statement issued last night PolyGram announced "the termination of the agreement under which Mr Blackwell's services were provided to the music and film operations of PolyGram's Island Entertainment Group". A spokeswoman said there would be no further comment.

Industry sources were speculating that the marriage of a multinational company and a supremely talented individualist had proved a difficult one, and 60-year-old Mr Blackwell will now concentrate on his chain of hotels in Miami and Jamaica.

Mr Blackwell founded Island Records in 1962 after selling Jamaican records from the boot of his car.

He championed music from Jamaica for the rest of his career, most notably the reggae star Bob Marley, who died of cancer in 1981. He became a close friend of the Marley family. But Marley was not alone among Island's landmark signings. The Spencer Davis

Group with Stevie Winwood in the Sixties, Free in the Seventies and U2 in the Eighties and beyond, alongside Britpop idols Pulp as well as The Cranberries, were all signed to Island.

PolyGram bought Island Records in 1989 for \$272m (£165m), keeping Mr Blackwell on as chairman of Island Entertainment Group.

Alain Levy, president and chief executive of PolyGram said in a statement issued in New York last night that Mr Blackwell would also be leaving the board of management of PolyGram. He added: "Mr Blackwell's departure will not affect the status of Island as a stand-alone unit within the PolyGram group of labels." A company spokesman refused to comment on rumours that Mr Blackwell had received \$20m in severance pay.

Mr Blackwell was not available for comment last night. Writers at *Music Week*, the weekly journal of the music industry, described him yesterday as one of the most significant figures operating in the record company world in the last half century.

— David Lister, Arts News Editor

Editor cleared of incitement to kill birds

A claim that the editor of an angling newspaper incited readers to kill cormorants, a protected species, was thrown out of court yesterday after magistrates decided there was no case to answer.

Keith Higginbottom, 39, former editor of the *Angling Times*, denied two charges under the Countryside and Wildlife 1981 Act that his edition of 4 December 1996 would encourage the killing of cormorants.

After the hearing at Peterborough, the paper's current editor John Kelly criticised the decision to press charges. He also vowed to continue the campaign to take

cormorants off the protected list. The birds have been driven inland to feed, incurring the wrath of anglers and fish farmers.

Mr Kelly said the prosecution was an "absolute waste of money".

"The decision to bring [the case] at all has to be questioned as it was a serious challenge to journalistic independence and free speech which is the hallmark of a democratic and free country."

The edition which led to the charges being brought carried the headline "These birds must be killed" opposite a picture of a masked, armed man - and four dead cormorants. The prosecution

alleged that it contained 13 specific messages about the need to kill cormorants.

Kevin Saunders, of the League Against Cruel Sports, said: "When we saw the article we were very worried about it and we were certain it was a clear incitement to people to kill a protected species. The outcome is very disappointing and we just hope people are more responsible in the future."

An RSPCA spokeswoman added: "These birds are protected and even if someone believes they are causing a problem, it is not up to any individual to decide what should be done."

No sympathy for Louise

Louise Woodward should spend at least 15 years in prison for killing baby Matthew Eappen, his mother said yesterday.

Deborah Eappen, who said she planned to become a child protection campaigner, added that she felt no sympathy for Woodward. "The life expectancy of a baby boy born in 1996 is 80 years. For her

to serve less than 15 years for killing Matthew is unfair," she said.

Dr Eappen, who carries a photograph of her son taken when he was dying in hospital, was speaking to the *New York Daily News* as the 19-year-old au pair waits to hear if the judge will overturn her conviction, or reduce it to manslaughter, or order a retrial.

UPDATE

ENVIRONMENT

Pollution curbs could save 8 million

A global effort to cut air pollution by reducing the burning of coal, oil and other fossil fuels could prevent eight million deaths worldwide over the first 20 years of the next century, scientists say.

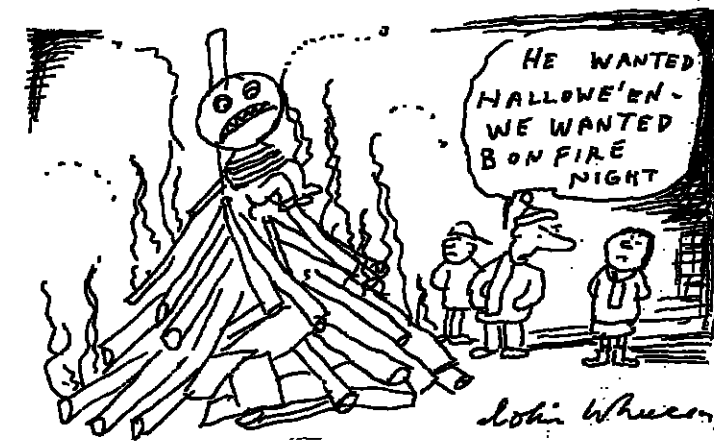
The Working Group on Public Health and Fossil Fuel Combustion, an interdisciplinary body funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency, compared two future scenarios to assess the likely effects of greenhouse gas emissions on global health. In one, dubbed "Business-as-Usual", they assumed trends in energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions would continue unchanged. In the other, they assumed European Union agreed targets for a 15 per cent reduction in CO2 emissions for developed countries below their 1990 level by 2010 would be met. Similar targets for developing countries require them to cut their emissions by 10 per cent below what they would otherwise be in 2010.

The group say in the *Lancet* that 700,000 avoidable deaths will occur annually by 2020 as a result of exposure to additional particulate matter pollution under the Business-as-Usual forecast compared with the EU-backed climate policy scenario.

— Jeremy Lounsbury, Health Editor

LEISURE

Firework sales lose their spark



Bonfire Night could be losing its appeal due to new legislation banning the sale of fireworks to under-18s and the increasing popularity of US-style Halloween celebrations.

Howard Garman, of Celebration Fireworks, said: "Initial figures show that sales are down 73 per cent on last year. That is quite a big drop for us but other people are likely to be well below that figure, probably 65 per cent is a truer figure across the country." Ron Rapley, of Standard Fireworks, also said that sales this year had been disappointing.

Some manufacturers believe that 5 November celebrations are being muted because more people are putting their energies into Halloween. Hamleys toy shop, in central London, said that it had sold more monster masks, costumes and other paraphernalia this year than ever before.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Water companies making progress

The performance of water companies continues to improve, Ian Byatt, Director General of the industry watchdog Ofwat, said yesterday.

Companies were measured on how they deal with supply failures, metered bills, response to billing contracts, customer complaints, water pressure and in some cases, sewer flooding. Mr Byatt said: "I am glad to report that the overall performance of the companies continues to improve. This reflects changes in operational procedures and, in relation to pressure problems and sewer flooding, the use of efficiency savings to finance additional investment. For some companies, however, aspects of their service are below that which customers might reasonably expect. In these cases I have asked the company concerned to tell me its plans for improvement. In some cases I have asked the company to set targets for improvements."

TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.32	Italy (lira)	2754
Austria (schillings)	19.67	Japan (yen)	203.7
Belgium (francs)	57.78	Malta (lira)	0.62
Canada (\$)	2.29	Netherlands (guilders)	3.15
Cyprus (pounds)	0.82	Norway (kroner)	11.51
Denmark (kroner)	10.72	Portugal (escudos)	284.2
France (francs)	9.36	Spain (pesetas)	235.6
Germany (marks)	2.80	Sweden (kroner)	12.31
Greece (drachme)	443.4	Switzerland (francs)	2.29
Hong Kong (\$)	12.58	Turkey (lira)	294,906
Ireland (punts)	1.08	USA (\$)	1.64

Source: Thomas Cook
Rates for indication purposes only

7.30 FOR 8



ZITS



THIS

series one of the cult TV hit of the nineties.
Available on video from all good retailers.

BBC

3/LEADING STORIES

Newsnight presenter gets blame in opera fiasco

The Culture Secretary Chris Smith has given his junior minister Mark Fisher a dressing down over remarks made on BBC's *Newsnight* programme. Mr Smith tells our arts news editor, David Lister, that it's all the fault of that hectoring Kirsty Wark.

An interview on BBC 2's *Newsnight* programme has led to public embarrassment for the government's culture ministers. Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, has hauled his hitherto fail-safe arts minister Mark Fisher over the coals for saying on programme that the government had already decided the future of the Royal Opera House.



Kirsty Wark gave Mark Fisher the last word

Mr Fisher's statement was embarrassing for both Mr Smith and Sir Richard Eyre, the former director of the National Theatre, whom Mr Smith has asked to head a review body on the ROH's future.

But with commendable frankness Mr Smith excused his junior by telling *The Independent* that Mr Fisher had been "under pressure from two antagonistic fellow interviewees and a rather hasty and pressing Kirsty Wark."

Mr Smith's oblique tribute to Ms Wark - namely that she can reduce an experienced politician to blurring out incoherences - should confirm her

Paxmanesque qualities for any who may have doubted them. A BBC spokesman said last night: "This is rather a bizarre excuse. Kirsty actually gave Mark Fisher the last word. He had lashings of time to make his points. Kirsty is one of our top presenters and very experienced. She doesn't cut people short."

Mr Smith said yesterday: "Mark was wrong in what he said on *Newsnight* and has been told very severely by me that he was wrong. I have been very clear in saying my proposals were proposals and not a *fait accompli*. My purpose, more than anything else, is to shock everyone into thinking seriously about the issue."

"I have said to Mark very clearly 'you should not have said that' and he said, 'I know, I know. As soon as it was over I knew I'd said the wrong thing'."

Mr Fisher has been Labour's arts spokesman during the Nineties, the main spokesman in opposition before the 1992 election and after that a number two. He said on *Newsnight* on Tuesday: "We have asked him [Sir Richard Eyre] to look at our plan. If he can come up with some improvement on it, well and good... Let's see what he comes up with, but we are convinced that he supports our plan and will make it work."

It is understood that this was badly received by Sir Richard Eyre, who is heading the Government's review and was under the impression he would be delivering his own conclusions, not rubber stamping a government decision that the Royal Opera House become a receiving House and the English National Opera leave the London Coliseum and perform there as equal partners with the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet.

Yesterday Sir Richard sent an open letter on the subject to all interested parties in which he says: "Your views on [Mr Smith's proposal] would be welcome, but I will explore other options and you should not feel constrained from offering views on different ways forward..."



Antony Worrall Thompson: 'Prison food is very monotonous. There's no imagination involved. It's just stodge'

Photograph

Could you feed desperate men on £1.52 a day?

A TASTE OF TWO MENUS

A sample prison menu

Breakfast
One boiled egg or cereal or porridge.
Two pieces of toast, 1 sachet of margarine and 1 sachet of marmalade

Lunch
Macaroni cheese or individual quiche or sausage roll with one type of potato (boiled, jacket, roasted or chips) and one type of seasonal vegetable (e.g. peas, or carrots)
Sometimes followed by a bun.

Tea
Baked potato and cheese or individual chicken vindaloo or individual lasagne or gammon steak and pineapple with one type of potato and one type of seasonal vegetable.

All meals are served with tea or tap water. One sachet of coffee is available during breakfast.

Cost per day £1.52 per person.

Antony Worrall Thompson's Alternative

Breakfast
Herb mushrooms and kidneys on toast. Extra toast.

Lunch
Chicken tagine with couscous or vegetarian lasagne.

Side dishes like salad, potatoes, rice and bread.

Dinner
Stir-fried pork ribbons with string beans and basil, garlic and chilli sauce or Thai-style stir-fry curd fish or salmon and dill fish cake or Rajastani rabbit curry or lentil and vegetable curry.

Side dishes like salad, potatoes, rice and bread.

Cost also at £1.52 per day per person, based on a £7,600 budget for a prison with 500 inmates.

cludes Thai style stir-fry cuttlefish, Rajastani rabbit curry, compared with baked potato and cheese and sausage roll.

Mr Worrall Thompson felt the prison menu was far too boring. "Prison food is very mo-

notonous. There's no imagination involved. It's just stodge, which may be quite filling but isn't very healthy."

Researchers, commissioned by the National Audit Office, visited 12 prisons in England

and Wales. The Prison Service spends £60m a year on catering, half of which goes on the cost of ingredients. They agreed that prison catering had improved since the early 1990s. But they expressed concern

over small portions, non-existent meal choices, food being cooked too far in advance and large time gaps between meals. At Woodhill Prison near Milton Keynes, inmates were supposed to be given 4oz of meat or protein per meal, but only received one-and-a-half ounces.

Mr Worrall Thompson, who is the cook on BBC2's *Food and Drink* programme brought some healthy living to the menu. "A lot of the prisoners work out when they're behind bars," he said. "So they don't just want fatty pies."

For breakfast, out went the traditional porridge and boiled eggs. They were replaced with kidney. "It's a healthy and tasty start to the day." He also added a Moroccan dish - Chicken Tagine. "In my experience, prisoners love spicy food," he explained.

However, Mr Worrall Thompson could not afford to use real basil and garlic with the stir-fried pork ribbons. "But the powdered type would be fine," he said. His menu added up to £1.25 per person. This left 27p spare for side dishes like salad, potatoes, rice and bread.

TOMORROW IN THE INDEPENDENT

ISM Sweater girls



Jennie Lee and the awkward squad

For men's eyes only: treasures of Mount Athos

PLUS TIME OFF Monaco, New York and the Ferry 'cross the Mersey

YOUR MONEY Smart banking for top people

THE EYE Complete TV

London capital's The d of

m Platoon

alert." emergency pollution they have ment is devised British ants never dras- It is an on- ith the light as ed yes- ie same search n's dri- les dri- d Uni- in two crs are r-paid mpany idents for 36 is.

ontrol 'ising. re in- vate s. In if fly cent. is ef- jaded ally heir into t ef-

ured iov- gal ntal om- Eu-

Orange understands people like us

talkshareplus™ lets two or more

people share one Talk Plan and

one bill. You get separate phones

with different numbers, share

more inclusive minutes, get

cheaper calls and pay just one

connection fee. You also receive

Orange Care worth over £50 on

each phone, which includes 12

months free insurance, 24 hour

replacement and 3 year warranty.

For more information call Orange

direct on 0800 80 10 80 or visit

www.orange.co.uk



THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

BUSINESS CENTRE

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

COMPUTERS

DATE: 10/10/2001

PLUS

**UP TO 12 MONTHS
INTEREST FREE OPTION***
WITH NO DEPOSIT

SAVE £200

FREE
12 MONTHS
UNLIMITED
INTERNET ACCESS

APRICOT
166MHz Pentium® Processor
with MMX Technology.
 16Mb SyncDRAM. 2Gb hard disk. 256k
 cache memory. 33.6k modem. Software
 includes Microsoft Works & Money.
Free 12 months unlimited
Internet access.*
9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
 Was £1199. £1099. MODEL: MS540 166.

EXTRA
REDUCTION
NOW ONLY
INC VAT
£999

UNBEATABLE SERVICE

FROM BRITAIN'S BIGGEST COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

- **INSTALLATION AND START-UP** in your home to get you going.
- **FREE SUNDAY MORNING PC TRAINING** for beginners, ask in store for details.
- **24-HOUR HELPLINE** available 365 days of the year.
- **NEXT DAY SERVICE** in your home or office for your convenience.

**FOR YOUR
NEAREST STORE
CALL 0990 464 464**

*BY YOURSELF REGISTRATION (PFE #100) INCLUDED IN THIS OFFER INCLUDES PRE-REGISTERED SOFTWARE TITLES, POSTAGE AND PROFITS WILL BE CHARGED AT FULL DRAFT ON MANUFACTURERS' RECOMMENDED RETAIL PRICES (EXCLUDING DISCS AND MANUALS). & BY YOU-HOLDER WHEN BOUGHT WITH AN INKJET PRINTER, AS IN STORE FOR DETAILS. *INCLUDES 12 MONTHS SUBSCRIPTION TO WIREIMAGE. DOES NOT INCLUDE COST OF PHONE CALL. **BASED ON CURRENT SELLING PRICES OF ACTUAL OR EQUIVALENT TITLES (EXCLUDING DISCS).

**£500 WORTH
OF DISCOUNT
VOUCHERS
ON ALL PCs**

ACER
166MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb RAM. 1.6Gb hard disk. 16 speed
multimedia. 33.6Kbps modem. 1Mb PCI
graphics card. Software includes MS Works. and
Hutchinson's Encyclopaedia.
9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION.*
MODEL: ACROS P166.

NEW
INC VAT
£999

CTX
166+ Cyrix Processor.
8Mb RAM. 1.7Gb hard disk.
512k cache memory.
PCI graphics card.
16 speed multimedia with stereo speakers.
14" monitor. Was £799.
MODEL: LCM166+.

PACKARD BELL

166MHz Pentium Processor
with MMX Technology.
16Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk.
256k cache memory.
20 speed multimedia. PCI graphics card.

**SAVE
£109**

£109

IBM
200MHz Pentium Processor with MMX Technology.
16Mb RAM. 2.1Gb hard disk.
256k cache memory. 24 speed multimedia.
33.6Kbps data/fax modem. Was £1449.
Model: Aritim E31

HEWLETT PACKARD
200MHz Pentium Processor
 with MMX Technology.
 16Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk drive.
 16 speed multimedia. 33.6k
 data/fax modem with voice
 capabilities.
 Was £1199.
**9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE
 OPTION.***
 MODEL: PAVILION 3120.

**SAVE
£100
INC VAT
£1099**

COMPAQ

2000MHz Pentium Processor
with MMX Technology.
16Mb SDRAM. 3.2Gb hard disk.
16 speed multimedia with JBL 3D Virtual Theatre & Dolby
Digital Surround Sound. 33.6k modem. 15" monitor.
Up to £1000 worth of software**.

Was £1499. £1499. MODEL: Presario 4506

SAVE
£300
INC. VAT
£1399

ACER
233MHz Pentium® Processor
with MMX Technology.
32MB RAM. 3.2Gb hard disk.
512K cache memory. 24 speed multimedia with
sub-woofer. 4Mb 3D graphics. 15" monitor.
56Kbps data/fax modem. Over 6 top software titles.

VIGLEN MICROSOFT **NEW**
200MHz Pentium Processor with MMX Technology.
16Mb SDRAM. 2.5Gb hard disk. 512k cache memory. 24 speed multimedia.
2Mb SD graphics card. 33.6k modem with
speakerphone. 15" monitor.
SPEAKERPHONE PCP. 0800 40 40 40



**£500 WORTH
OF DISCOUNT
VOUCHERS
ON ALL PCs**

PC & SCANNER & PRINTER
SAVE £180

COMPAQ Presario 4504
166MHz Pentium Processor with MMX™ Technology.

PLUS Logitech Pagescan USB Pagefeed Scanner.

PLUS Hewlett Packard Deskjet 820Cxi Colour Inkjet Printer.

Total Separate Selling Price £1533.99.
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION.*

PACKAGE DEAL
 INC VAT
£1349

UP TO 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
 WITH NO DEPOSIT ON ALL PRODUCTS OVER \$250*

*Minimum interest free period is 12 months, with the 60/120 monthly payments according to period selected with the product. Typical example: Cash price of \$1,000. Monthly payments of \$100. EATL balance of \$190 to be paid before or with 12th payment. On interest, total paid \$1,500.

ON SPREAD THE COST WITH 48 MONTH REPAYMENTS

*Typical example: If balance is not settled before the 12 month option period.
 Consumer of \$1,000, still must be repaid over 48 months.

29.95% APR

POOLE OPENS THIS SATURDAY

PENTIUM® II
FROM ONLY £1499

**FREE
INSTALLATION
AND START UP
ON ALL
PENTIUM® II P**

**PENTIUM
II
PROCESSOR**
INC VAT
£1949

APRICOT

PENTIUM II PROCESSOR

233MHz Pentium® II Processor
528Mb Synchronous DRAM, 4.3Gb hard disk, 572k cache memory.
24 speed multimedia, 2Mb 3D graphics card, 56k modem with voice capabilities, 15" monitor. Free 12 months

£1999

PACKARD BELL

386MHz Intel Pentium® II Processor
32MB SynchronAM 5.1Gb UDMA
hard disk drive, 512K cache
memory, 24 speed multimedia,
4Mb Matrix Mystique graphics

**PENTIUM
II
PROCESSOR**

£2399
NEW

VIGLEN MICROSOFT
233MHz Intel Pentium® II Processor
32Mb SynchDRAM 4.3Gb UDMA
hard disk 512K cache memory
PC/TV card 24 speed multimedia
card & software, 68K, 32 multimedia

with 300-wattatt. 486 333 computer card, 33.6k modem, 15" monitor, Microsoft natural key joystick and software. MODEL: Home Pro PW 233MMXL



A & PRINTER
£130

PC & CAMERA & PRINTER
SAVE £130

PACKARD BELL Pulsar 16
166MHz Pentium Processor with MMX™ Technology

PLUS Kodak DC20 Digital Camera.

PLUS Canon BJC4200 Colour Inkjet
Printer with Photo Editing Studio.

Total Separate Selling Price £1683.99.
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

PC WORLD

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

5/ISAIAH BERLIN

Our greatest thinker, who straddled a terrible century

Sir Isaiah Berlin (pictured above), don, diplomat, historian, political theorist and philosopher, died on Wednesday at the age of 88. Rupert Cornwell gives just a taste of the life and impact of an intellectual lion of the 20th century.

Even without the academic accomplishments which adorned it, Isaiah Berlin's was a life that encapsulated a century - from an early childhood in Riga and St Petersburg to England and Oxford, to Washington and then back to Moscow as a diplomat, then Oxford once more, and the summit of the English establishment as a director of the Royal Opera House, and the presidency of the British Academy.

But he will be best remembered for two things: his scholarship and his ability to communicate his scholarship. In Berlin three strands wonderfully fused: a Russian fascination with ideas, a sense of community derived from his Jewish origins, and a devotion to tolerance, the dignity of the individual, and freedom taken from his adopted country of England. And for those who knew him and studied under him, his finest pupil was the lecture rooms of postwar Oxford.

Isaiah Berlin was the university's in-house legend, a Pavarotti at the rostrum of learning, a multilingual, multi-disciplinary force of nature. For those who listened to him, the memory is indelible - the glittering, tumbling torrent of words as speech struggled to keep up with the Catherine wheel of ideas that was his mind. He was once measured at 400 words a minute, twice the normal rate. Whether it was total enlightenment or inspired obfuscation was debated.



The life of Isaiah Berlin, pictured with Sir Yehudi Menuhin (right), encapsulated a century, from the Russian revolution to Fascism to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Photographs: AP/Sidney Harris

able: "Unintelligible, in several languages." AL Rowse once remarked, only part in jest. But the sheer sweep and wit of the man, the richness and originality of his mind, made you feel, if only for an instant, that suddenly everything was clear.

Berlin has not escaped revisionism's barbs. For today's philosophy students he is no

longer required reading. So, some start to wonder, was he really a unique genius? Or was he merely an inflated Oxford cult figure, a Grade One listed monument of the high table, unique only in that gift the English intelligentsia prize above every other - of holding forth at the drop of a hat, effortlessly, authoritatively and

humorously, about any subject under the sun? He could do that - and how. But he was not just clever. He was also wise.

He offered a remarkable combination of historian and philosopher, a student of ideas who also shaped ideas. Berlin is famous above all as a liberal. You did not have to be an aspiring historian or philoso-

pher to have read his 1959 essay "Two Concepts of Liberty" and be disquieted and enthralled by the distinction drawn between "freedom from" and "freedom to" - the one the justificatory claim of the Communism which he loathed, the other all too easily a licence to tyrannise.

Today, the "Two Concepts"

is less admired, and Berlin himself admitted in his last published interview, in last month's issue of *Prospect* magazine, that "I should have made more of the horrors of negative liberty, and all that has led to." No one, however, would challenge the central lesson he drew from "this most terrible century in Western

history", that nothing was as dangerous as blind pursuit of a political or philosophical system. He had seen these evils at first hand: the overthrow of tsar Nicholas II and Lenin's coup, as a child in St Petersburg, and the ebb and flow of the Second World War from the British embassy in Washington. Famously, his dis-

patches were some of Churchill's favourite wartime reading.

Above all, perhaps, he recognised that in an imperfect world good was divisible, that noble intentions often conflicted, that the most intractable disputes are where both contestants are right. From that flowed a special skill, of illuminating each side of an argument. He was a mesmerising raconteur - but "at the opposite extreme from those... who use their gifts to monopolise the conversation", wrote the philosopher Alasdair MacIntyre. "Berlin's splendid performances enable us to listen more intelligently to other voices, not just to his own. How much we owe him."

How much indeed. More conclusively than any other, he proved that playfulness, laughter and a sense of fun could survive a fellowship of All Souls at the age of 23. He was, wrote his biographer, Michael Ignatieff, "the rarest of creatures, a wise man who is also lovable".

All this will make him irreplaceable. Each generation throws up just a handful like him: Andre Malraux, George Kennan, John Maynard Keynes are a few names which come to mind.

We should be thankful that this particularly coruscating specimen fetched up on our shores. England, he once said, "is the best country in the world: the least corrupt, the least cruel, the least liable to enormities". Pace the trumpeting of New Labour, these days this self-doubting country tends not to see itself so. Let us therefore return the compliment. Berlin's favourite quotation is a line by Immanuel Kant: "From the crooked timber of humanity, no straight thing was ever made." If that is true, then no one was more adept at explaining and ironing out the twists, gnarls and contortions of our era than he.

London
apital's
the
d of
m Pilton

alert."
mergency
solution
they have
ment is
devised
British
ants ne-
re dras-
It is an
on.
with the
light as
ed yes-
to Sep-
same
search
n's dri-
les dri-
by cars.
d Uni-
in two
ers are
n-paid
npany
idents
for 36
is.

ontrol
ising
ie in-
vaste
s. In
of fly
cent,
is ef-
jade
fally
their
into
ef-

ured
rov-
gal
ntal
on-
Eu-

KEY BENEFITS
RECEIVE UP TO
50,000
AIR MILES
WITH A C&G MORTGAGE

- If you're remortgaging we'll take care of the legal work free of charge
- If you're moving home we'll give you £250 towards your costs
- No mortgage indemnity premium
- No valuation fee

- Get up to 50,000 AIR MILES when your new mortgage starts
- You'll receive 1,000 AIR MILES for each full £5,000 of your loan
- So, for example, a £45,000 mortgage will give you 9,000 AIR MILES
- 6,000 AIR MILES are enough for two people to fly to New York and back



8.45% 8.8%

- C&G AIR MILES Mortgage is available exclusively through C&G Mortgage Direct
- For full details call now, free, quoting reference IN27K

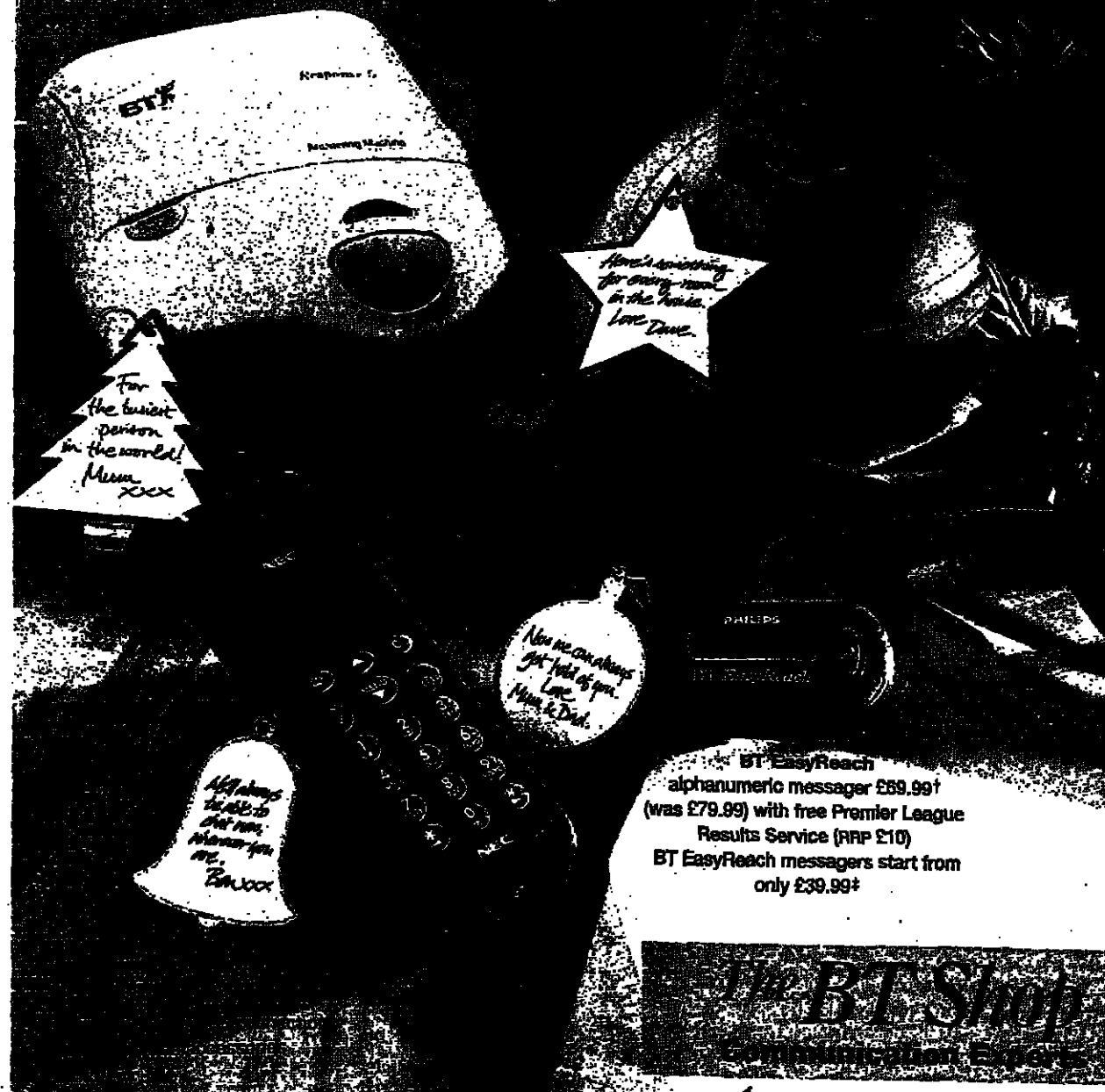
Cheltenham & Gloucester
MORTGAGE DIRECT

0800 731 8500

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Cheltenham & Gloucester plc, Brunel Way, Gloucester GL4 1RL. Typical example assumes an interest rate of 8.45% and an income only. Loan of £50,000 secured over 25 years and a property value of £250,000. 300 net monthly payments of £520.29 (interest tax relief at 15%). Administration charge £500. The original £50,000 must be repaid at the end of the mortgage term. *Total amount payable £156,792.25 including one closing redemption charge of £50. APM = £500 (variable). Early Repayment Charge: If you repay the loan in full or in part, or ask to switch to another C&G mortgage offer within the first five years, you will have to pay an early repayment charge equivalent to three months' interest. If you repay only part of the loan, the charge is worked out on the amount you repay. This offer is available only for loans between £5,000 and £50,000 and where the borrower is aged 18 or over. The service does not include any non-standard additional costs which you will have to pay. Full details of our mortgage service are available on request. Different arrangements apply in different parts of the UK. This service does not include any non-standard additional costs which you will have to pay. Please ask us if you would like a written agreement. Before agreeing a loan we will want to satisfy ourselves about the suitability of your loan to you. We will include a copy of our terms and conditions, and a copy of the property valuation report, with the mortgage offer. We will also include a copy of the mortgage deed. The mortgage deed is a legal document which you will have to sign. It will include details of the loan, the interest rate, the repayment schedule, and the terms and conditions of the mortgage. It will also include a copy of the property valuation report. The mortgage deed is a legal document which you will have to sign. It will include details of the loan, the interest rate, the repayment schedule, and the terms and conditions of the mortgage. It will also include a copy of the property valuation report. The mortgage deed is a legal document which you will have to sign. It will include details of the loan, the interest rate, the repayment schedule, and the terms and conditions of the mortgage. It will also include a copy of the property valuation report.

This Christmas why not try some rabbit?

Swatch DECT
cordless telephone £179.99
Cordless phones to suit all
budgets from £24.99



BT EasyReach
alphanumeric messenger £89.99†
(was £79.99) with free Premier League
Results Service (RPP £10)
BT EasyReach messengers start from
only £39.99†

BT Shop

FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST BT SHOP, CALL:
Freefone 0800 400 004

*When you subscribe to a new 12 month airline agreement with Call Connections Limited, e.g. Occasional Calls Plus £1250 per month Direct Debit. Subject to status. Please ask for details. †Calls to the alphanumeric messenger are charged at 20p per call peak times (0800-1800 Mon-Fri) and 30p per call at all other times. Calls from mobile phones, pagers, Chargecards and non-BT networks are charged at prevailing rates. Please ask for details. ‡Calls to the numeric messenger are charged at 20p at all times. Calls from mobile phones, pagers, Chargecards and non-BT networks are charged at prevailing rates. Please ask for details. Christmas Day activation available.

Radiation workers in child cancer link

A study of workers exposed to radiation shows they are more likely to have children who develop leukaemia. But their increased risk is not linked to radiation exposure. Jeremy Laurence, Health Editor, explains how the findings effectively dispel the fears of a link which surfaced 15 years ago, but leave questions about the causes of childhood leukaemia unanswered.

Workers in nuclear and other industries who are exposed to radiation have a 77 per cent higher risk of fathering a child who develops leukaemia, according to one of the largest studies yet conducted.

However, the findings by the Childhood Cancer Research Group at Oxford University, show that the risk of having a child with leukaemia was not linked with the size of the radiation dose. In fact, men with the highest risk received the

lowest or zero doses. The study, published in the *British Medical Journal*, is the most definitive so far to counter the 15-year-old hypothesis that living near to or working in a nuclear power station increases the risk of cancer.

Alarm over a link between nuclear power and leukaemia was triggered in 1983 with the broadcast of the Yorkshire Television documentary, *The Nuclear Laundry*, which claimed that the high level of childhood leukaemia in the Cumbrian village of Seascale was linked with the nearby nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield.

The programme's claims gained scientific credibility following publication of a study, also in the *BMJ*, by the respected cancer epidemiologist Martin Gardner, which appeared to show that exposure of men to radiation before conception increased the risk of leukaemia in their offspring. Exposure to radiation, it was suggested, might damage the genetic material in the men's sperm.

The *BMJ* describes the "Gardner hypothesis" as one of the most important papers it has published in the last 15 years. However, despite the efforts of researchers in the UK

and abroad, no group has ever succeeded in replicating its findings.

The new study, led by Dr Gerald Draper, director of the Childhood Cancer Research Group, "almost finishes" the Gardner hypothesis, the *BMJ* says. It concludes that the most likely explanation for the increased risk among radiation workers is exposure to infection resulting from mixing of the population.

This theory suggests that childhood leukaemia may be a rare reaction to infection which is more common when there is a big influx of people to an isolated rural community, as when a nuclear power station is being built.

Although the 77 per cent increase in risk for radiation-exposed workers looks high, the absolute risk is still small. There are 6.5 cases of leukaemia and the related condition non-Hodgkin's lymphoma per 10,000 children under 15, and the study authors estimate that this is raised to 11.9 per 10,000.

Dr Draper said: "The public alarm over living near a nuclear power station is overdone. The popular conception that there are lots of cancers around them is wrong."



In tune: Robert Tewsey and Lucia Lacarra rehearsing *Nutcracker* for the English National Ballet premiere in Southampton next week
Photograph: Laurie Lewis

Ministers accused of Hackney U-turn

The Government was accused of doing a U-turn yesterday, after ministers backed Hackney Council's rejection of most of the proposals of a hit squad sent in to remedy the London borough's education crisis.

Richard Painter, chairman of the improvement team sent into Hackney by the Government, last night rejected suggestions that he would resign. But he is, however, asking for meetings with both government and council officials, after Stephen Byers, the school standards minister, welcomed the council education committee's "positive response".

The present row is over the appointment of a director of education, a post which has been unfilled for nearly two years. Mr Painter wants the director to be responsible for all aspects of education to ensure that the job goes to a first-class candidate.

Tony Elliston, the council's chief executive, and councillors want the director to be in charge only of schools. A separate executive director would have responsibility for consumer services and construction.

The committee did make some concessions to the improvement team by agreeing to upgrade the director of schools post and offer the salary sug-

gested by Mr Painter. Earlier this week, Mr Painter said that he would ask ministers to intervene unless the council accepted his report by next Thursday.

Before Wednesday night's meeting, official Labour councillors in Hackney were also backing Mr Painter's team. Mr Byers' intervention is understood to have led to their decision to support rebel Labour, Conservative and Liberal opposition to the team's proposals.

Mark Lushington of the Hackney Teachers' Association said there had been a stitch-up. "Ministers have caved in to the local politicians - this government is supposed to be about education, education, not politics, politics."

A Department for Education spokesman said the Government had not backed down. "We asked for someone to head the education service in Hackney and the council has agreed to that."

The improvement team was invited into Hackney after an inspectors' report said the education service was "in disarray."

But Mr Painter said they did not go far enough. "My team is very unhappy about this. They are all pretty upset."

— Judith Judd

How pilots train for disaster

Experts yesterday removed a Virgin Atlantic jet from the Heathrow Airport runway where it had made an emergency landing. As the man who brought it to earth was hailed a hero, Louise Jury looks at how pilots are trained to deal with such emergencies.

"The only thing that goes through your mind is how the hell can you get out of the mess you're in. You don't believe it to start with. Then things happen which convince you. You begin to think very lucidly."

They are moments that pilots are trained for, but training today is rarely done in an aeroplane. Simulators have been devised which give a life-like sensation of real flight.

Dave Badrick, a training captain for Virgin, says pilots training for a new type of aircraft would spend up to 60 hours on the simulator.

Every six months, they return for two days to practice routine procedures and to work through a series of potential emergencies. There is a manual half an inch thick covering dozens of potential disasters

from hydraulic failure to the failures of one or all the engines. Over a three-year period, all possibilities would be covered.

Captain Badrick said: "It's quite easy to forget you're in a simulator. They perform just like an aeroplane."

But although Captain Moody agreed they were "remarkably real", he said he could never get it out of his mind that he was still on solid ground. "Being several thousand feet in the air is a great concentrator of the mind."

Captain Tim Barnby made his emergency landing on Wednesday afternoon after his Virgin Atlantic flight VS024 from Los Angeles developed undercarriage problems. Yesterday, travellers faced delays and service was not expected to return to normal until today.

Retired Captain Eric Moody knows what it is like to endure that heart-stopping moment when a plane fails. Fifteen years ago, all four engines on his plane cut out when a volcano erupted beneath him and he flew through the ash.

Barclays Bank PLC.

Interest Rates for Business
Customers, Charities and Societies with
effect from 6th November 1997.

ACCOUNT TITLE	GROSS RATE (%P.A.)	NET RATE (%P.A.)
BUSINESS PREMIUM ACCOUNT. (Rates also apply to Farmers Premium Account) - Instant access.		
£250,000 +	4.375	3.500
£100,000 - £249,999	4.250	3.400
£25,000 - £99,999	4.000	3.200
£2,000 - £24,999	3.500	2.800
£100 - £1,999	3.125	2.500
HIGH INTEREST BUSINESS ACCOUNT - 14 days' notice.		
£250,000 +	5.750	4.600
£100,000 - £249,999	5.625	4.500
£25,000 - £99,999	5.375	4.300
£10,000 - £24,999	4.875	3.900
£2,000 - £9,999	4.125	3.300
CLIENT'S PREMIUM ACCOUNT		
£1 million +	5.125	4.100
£250,000 - £999,999	5.000	4.000
£100,000 - £249,999	4.875	3.900
£25,000 - £99,999	4.500	3.600
£10,000 - £24,999	4.250	3.400
BARCLAYS COMMUNITY ACCOUNT. (An interest bearing current account for clubs, charities, churches and societies.) No minimum balance.		
£25,000 +	3.000	2.400
£10,000 - £24,999	2.500	2.000
£5,000 - £9,999	2.000	1.600
£0 - £4,999	1.750	1.400
SEVEN DAY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT. (A seven days' notice account.) No minimum balance.		
	0.500	0.400

GROSS RATE is the contractual rate of interest payable not taking account of the deduction of income tax at the lower rate. NET RATE is the rate which would be payable after allowing for the deduction of income tax at the lower rate. The Tax Deduction Scheme for Interest (TDSI) may vary and, therefore, the net rate is given as an illustration only. Tax will only be deducted in those cases where the Bank is obliged to do so.

Interest rates quoted are subject to variation. For further information on these or any other services please contact your local Barclays branch or Business Centre who will be pleased to help.



Barclays Bank PLC. Reg. No. 1026167. Registered in England. Reg. Office: 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AB.

Dixons

FREE WEEKEND BREAK

AT FORTE HOTELS WITH one 2 one

NOKIA 620 MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 240 minutes talktime/ 60 hours standby time.
- 99 name and number memory.
- Dedicated VoiceMail key.
- Easy-to-use menu system.
- Was £229.99

£9.99

ERICSSON 368

DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 120 minutes talktime/ 24 hours standby time.
- 99 name and number memory.
- Fax and data compatible.
- Caller identification.
- Built-in calculator.

£49.99

NOKIA 6146

DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 90 minutes talktime/ 70 hours standby time.
- 224 name and number memory.
- Fax and data compatible.
- Easy access to VoiceMail.

£99.99

MOTOROLA STARTAC ROYALE

DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 100 minutes talktime/ 30 hours standby time.
- 99 name and number memory.
- Fax and data compatible.
- Backlit display and keypad.
- Easy-to-use menu system.

£149.99

one 2 one

FREE

3 WAYS TO BUY

1. CASH

2. CREDIT CARD

3. 0% FINANCE

08000 68 28 68

Dixons

There's a Great Deal going on

Worst poll

Make sure
YOUR FREE

BATTERY ✓ VEHICLE

ALTERNATOR DRIVE

Any work required
will be estimated

MAJOR SERVICE

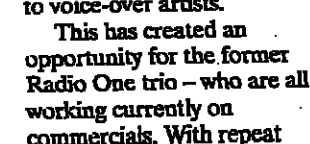
FREE MOT WORTH £25
WITH A MAJOR SERVICE

Phone 0345 36

- All work carried out
- All parts and materials
- 12 months
- The price we

صكزا من الامن

Bentley case goes back to appeal court 44 years on



All of which has left Equity rather deflated. A spokesman for the union said: "The artists need to know that we are acting in the interests of anyone who does voice-overs. We will be speaking to their representatives so they are made fully aware that if we lose this case everyone involved could lose out."



In 1993, Iris Bentley won a partial victory when Michael Howard, the then home sec-

should be referred to the Court of Appeal was "virtually identical" to one presented to the



showing Bentley was "reckless-minded" and the suggestion that his statement was taken incorrectly by the police.

— **Michael Stree**
Legal Affairs Correspondent

**TOYS "R" US
DIRECT**



FREE[†] DELIVERY

**ORDER ANY PC
DIRECT BY CALLING**

0345 869 778

**AND WE'LL DELIVER TO YOUR
HOME WITHIN 7[†] DAYS!**

TOYS "R" US DIRECT LINES OPEN:
MON-FRI 9.00-5.00PM, SAT 9.00-4.00PM, SUN 10.00-4.00PM

backed up by the two companies you can rely on.

FUJITSU P166 MMX

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intel 166MHz Pentium processor with MMX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3.5" 1.44Mb Floppy Disk Drive
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16Mb EDO RAM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Windows 95
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 512K Pipeline Burst Cache	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Huge software bundle including:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2.1Gb Hard Disk	• 5 Top MMX Titles
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ATI 3D Rage II Graphics Card	• Microsoft Money
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2Mb Video RAM	• Encarta
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 33.6kps Voice/Data/Fax Modem	• Microsoft Works
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20-Speed Max CD-ROM	• BT Line One
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 14" SVGA Colour Monitor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-Year in-home Hardware Warranty

COMPUTERS MADE SIMPLE
AT TOYS "R" US

[illegible]

TOYS 'R US
IT'S WORTH
THE JOURNEY
MON - SAT 'TIL 8PM
SUN 'TIL 5PM*
*BOOTH'S STORES SUN 'TIL 6
P.M. **BEAUFORT SUN 'TIL 6PM**
*Some stores operate on alternate
closed hours for children

Credit Example:
"Buy One Year Interest Free on Toys 'R Us 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037 2038 2039 2040 2041 2042 2043 2044 2045 2046 2047 2048 2049 2050 2051 2052 2053 2054 2055 2056 2057 2058 2059 2060 2061 2062 2063 2064 2065 2066 2067 2068 2069 2070 2071 2072 2073 2074 2075 2076 2077 2078 2079 2080 2081 2082 2083 2084 2085 2086 2087 2088 2089 2090 2091 2092 2093 2094 2095 2096 2097 2098 2099 2100 2101 2102 2103 2104 2105 2106 2107 2108 2109 2110 2111 2112 2113 2114 2115 2116 2117 2118 2119 2120 2121 2122 2123 2124 2125 2126 2127 2128 2129 2130 2131 2132 2133 2134 2135 2136 2137 2138 2139 2140 2141 2142 2143 2144 2145 2146 2147 2148 2149 2150 2151 2152 2153 2154 2155 2156 2157 2158 2159 2160 2161 2162 2163 2164 2165 2166 2167 2168 2169 2170 2171 2172 2173 2174 2175 2176 2177 2178 2179 2180 2181 2182 2183 2184 2185 2186 2187 2188 2189 2190 2191 2192 2193 2194 2195 2196 2197 2198 2199 2200 2201 2202 2203 2204 2205 2206 2207 2208 2209 2210 2211 2212 2213 2214 2215 2216 2217 2218 2219 2220 2221 2222 2223 2224 2225 2226 2227 2228 2229 2230 2231 2232 2233 2234 2235 2236 2237 2238 2239 2240 2241 2242 2243 2244 2245 2246 2247 2248 2249 2250 2251 2252 2253 2254 2255 2256 2257 2258 2259 2260 2261 2262 2263 2264 2265 2266 2267 2268 2269 2270 2271 2272 2273 2274 2275 2276 2277 2278 2279 2280 2281 2282 2283 2284 2285 2286 2287 2288 2289 2290 2291 2292 2293 2294 2295 2296 2297 2298 2299 2300 2301 2302 2303 2304 2305 2306 2307 2308 2309 2310 2311 2312 2313 2314 2315 2316 2317 2318 2319 2320 2321 2322 2323 2324 2325 2326 2327 2328 2329 2330 2331 2332 2333 2334 2335 2336 2337 2338 2339 2340 2341 2342 2343 2344 2345 2346 2347 2348 2349 2350 2351 2352 2353 2354 2355 2356 2357 2358 2359 2360 2361 2362 2363 2364 2365 2366 2367 2368 2369 2370 2371 2372 2373 2374 2375 2376 2377 2378 2379 2380 2381 2382 2383 2384 2385 2386 2387 2388 2389 2390 2391 2392 2393 2394 2395 2396 2397 2398 2399 2400 2401 2402 2403 2404 2405 2406 2407 2408 2409 2410 2411 2412 2413 2414 2415 2416 2417 2418 2419 2420 2421 2422 2423 2424 2425 2426 2427 2428 2429 2430 2431 2432 2433 2434 2435 2436 2437 2438 2439 2440 2441 2442 2443 2444 2445 2446 2447 2448 2449 2450 2451 2452 2453 2454 2455 2456 2457 2458 2459 2460 2461 2462 2463 2464 2465 2466 2467 2468 2469 2470 2471 2472 2473 2474 2475 2476 2477 2478 2479 2480 2481 2482 2483 2484 2485 2486 2487 2488 2489 2490 2491 2492 2493 2494 2495 2496 2497 2498 2499 2500 2501 2502 2503 2504 2505 2506 2507 2508 2509 2510 2511 2512 2513 2514 2515 2516 2517 2518 2519 2520 2521 2522 2523 2524 2525 2526 2527 2528 2529 2530 2531 2532 2533 2534 2535 2536 2537 2538 2539 2540 2541 2542 2543 2544 2545 2546 2547 2548 2549 2550 2551 2552 2553 2554 2555 2556 2557 2558 2559 2560 2561 2562 2563 2564 2565 2566 2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572 2573 2574 2575 2576 2577 2578 2579 2580 2581 2582 2583 2584 2585 2586 2587 2588 2589 2590 2591 2592 2593 2594 2595 2596 2597 2598 2599 2600 2601 2602 2603 2604 2605 2606 2607 2608 2609 2610 2611 2612 2613 2614 2615 2616 2617 2618 2619 2620 2621 2622 2623 2624 2625 2626 2627 2628 2629 2630 2631 2632 2633 2634 2635 2636 2637 2638 2639 2640 2641 2642 2643 2644 2645 2646 2647 2648 2649 2650 2651 2652 2653 2654 2655 2656 2657 2658 2659 2660 2661 2662 2663 2664 2665 2666 2667 2668 2669 2670 2671 2672 2673 2674 2675 2676 2677 2678 2679 2680 2681 2682 2683 2684 2685 2686 2687 2688 2689 2690 2691 2692 2693 2694 2695 2696 2697 2698 2699 2700 2701 2702 2703 2704 2705 2706 2707 2708 2709 2710 2711 2712 2713 2714 2715 2716 2717 2718 2719 2720 2721 2722 2723 2724 2725 2726 2727 2728 2729 2730 2731 2732 2733 2734 2735 2736 2737 2738 2739 2740 2741 2742 2743 2744 2745 2746 2747 2748 2749 2750 2751 2752 2753 2754 2755 2756 2757 2758 2759 2760 2761 2762 2763 2764 2765 2766 2767 2768 2769 2770 2771 2772 2773 2774 2775 2776 2777 2778 2779 2780 2781 2782 2783 2784 2785 2

**ENCARTA 98
OUT NOW!**

£37.97

**FREE
ENCARTA 98
DELUXE
£59.97**

WE'LL MATCH
ANY
ADVERTISED
PRICE

VIEW THE NEW
TOYS 'R US INTERNET
CATALOGUE ON:

هكذا من الامم

Drug baron's plastic surgeon found dead

The lesson is: if you perform clandestine plastic surgery on Mexico's most-wanted druglord to help him elude police, you'd better get it right.

Otherwise you are likely to end up like the three bodies - handcuffed, blindfolded, strangled and burnt - found inside oil drums on the Mexico City to Acapulco motorway last weekend. Police forensic experts said yesterday at least one of the men was a plastic surgeon believed to have operated on cocaine baron Amado Carrillo Fuentes last 3 July. The other two may have been assistants to the surgeon, 37-year-old Jaime Godoy Singh, the experts said.

Carrillo, 42, died in a Mexico City clinic the following day, 4 July, apparently as the result of the anaesthetic or sleeping pills he had been given. The fact that he died on the Fourth of July - US Independence Day - raised speculation that US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents had reached his doctors and persuaded them to kill him. The DEA flatly denied any involvement.

Whether or not Godoy or his assistants deliberately killed Carrillo, both Mexican and US anti-narcotics agents knew the doctors were in big trouble. None of them ever reappeared at their homes.

Then, on Sunday, police made the gruesome discovery by the side of the motorway: three



The body of plastic surgeon Jaime Godoy Singh, found strangled and burnt inside an oil drum. Photograph: Alejandro Gonzalez/AP

oil drums, partly filled with cement, each with a body stuffed inside. Each body appeared to have been strangled with a cable and set fire to while handcuffed and blindfolded.

Asked to identify his son's body from a photograph, Godoy's father became sick. The surgeon's brother later identified the body because of a plastic jaw prosthesis and matching dental records.

Carrillo, from the northern Mexican state of Sinaloa, was known as "The Lord of the Skies" because he controlled air routes carrying Colombian cocaine via Mexico to the US. Heading the so-called Juarez cartel, he gathered a fortune estimated at \$25bn (£15bn), spending much of it on paying off top police and military officers.

Earlier this year, Mexico's anti-drugs tsar,

General Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, was arrested for accepting massive bribes in return for protecting Carrillo.

There was a spate of killings in and around Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas, after Carrillo's death, as rival druglords fought for his turf.

— Phil Davison,
Latin America Correspondent

Swedish style to transform Bethlehem

Bethlehem is getting a Scandinavian facelift for the Millennium.

Eric Silver in Jerusalem says that although the architect is Scandinavian, the birthplace of Jesus is not about to get an Ikea makeover.

the Byzantine Church of the Nativity.

"If you look at the old houses in Bethlehem," Mr. Linquist explained, "it's built up with cubistic elements. I've reflected that and enhanced the view of the church."

Vehicles will be banished from the square, which will be paved with stone and scored with trees. Weary pilgrims will be able to dip their feet in six artificial wells, or drink Turkish coffee in a pavilion.

The ugly cement police station, which has blighted the square under British, Jordanian and Israeli rule, is to be torn down. It will be replaced by a two-storey cultural centre, complete with restaurant and bookshop, auditorium, museum of religions, and art gallery.

Work began this week on cleaning up the old market behind the town hall, the first of the 91 "Bethlehem 2000" schemes. All of them together are budgeted to cost \$150m (£94m). The Christian Arab mayor, Hanna Nassar, confessed yesterday that so far he had raised only \$10m, with donations from France and Spain, as well as Sweden.

Bethlehem has been impoverished by a 10-year decline in tourism, dating back to the beginning of the Palestinian Intifada, and by Israel's reluctance to invest there. Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, which took over just before Christmas, 1995, has little money to spare.

Israelis 'plotted kidnap'

A Swiss judge in Geneva said yesterday he had issued international arrest warrants for seven Israelis in connection with an alleged plot to kidnap Aithna Roussel - the sole surviving heir to the Greek shipping tycoon, Aristotle Onassis.

Judge Jacques Delientzaz called the suspects, several of whom were former Israeli army officers, "agents" who had done the "dirty work" of preparing the abduction by photographing the 12-year-old and her security entourage in Switzerland.

— Reuters, Geneva

UK turns down Zimbabwe

Britain said yesterday it would not fund Zimbabwe's controversial plan to forcibly buy land from white commercial farmers to resettle landless black peasants or commercial farmers. President Robert Mugabe has been demanding that Britain give his government money to buy back land from "its white children" so that it can resettle indigenous blacks.

"The British government stressed that the programme of rapid land acquisition that now seems to be envisaged in Zimbabwe would be impossible for Britain to support," the British High Commission said yesterday. — Reuters, Harare

Typhoon kills over 300

Typhoon Linda killed at least 313 people when it pounded Vietnam last weekend. More than 2,200 people were still missing or unaccounted for, officials said.

The worst storm to hit the area since 1904, Linda swept into the Gulf of Thailand after crossing the tip of Vietnam, claiming the lives of many fishermen and nine people in Thailand. Cambodian officials said yesterday that the number of fishermen who drowned in Cambodian waters rose to 25 while more than 100 were still missing. — Reuters, Hanoi

Thai political ills make king sick

One country, two governments: that is the position Thailand appears to find itself in after a night of intense political negotiation aimed at choosing a successor to the Prime Minister, Chavalit Yongchaiyudh.

Thais, anxious and bemused at the political turmoil that has followed the country's worst economic crisis in decades, watched in confusion as national television broadcast simultaneous news conferences, with both government and opposition parties claiming enough seats to form the next administration.

Opposition parties led by the Democrats say they have negotiated a coalition and will form the next Thai government, with a former premier, Chuan Leekpai, as the new prime minister.

At the same time, members of the present governing coalition announced that they have also agreed deals with other parties ensuring that they will be leading the next Thai government, with a second former

prime minister, Chatichai Choonhavan, as leader.

Amid the political turmoil, which has reached fever pitch, one person has had enough. Thailand's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who has been watching the chaos from his palace, has fallen ill over the squabbling. A royal medical panel says the 69-year-old King has been admitted to hospital for a check-up after recording an irregular heart-beat.

There appears little prospect of an early end to the latest political turmoil, although the speaker of the Thai parliament is expected to announce which parties will form the new government on Monday.

In the meantime, the one certainty in Thailand this morning is that the embattled Mr Yongchaiyudh is no longer formally in power. During his 11 months in office, Thailand's once booming economy sagged into depression, the Thai baht losing more than half its value in recent months.

— Matthew Chance, Bangkok

Currys

BEST EVER CHRISTMAS PRICES

SAVE UP TO £300

ON A HUGE RANGE OF TOP BRAND CAMCORDERS

UP TO 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* ON ALL CAMCORDERS

CAMCORDERS SAVE UP TO £150

HITACHI

8mm Camcorder with 3" Colour LCD Screen and Speaker
Model VM555
Was £699.99
9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SAVE £150

CURRYS PRICE £549.99

CANON

8mm Camcorder with Hi-Fi Stereo Sound
16x zoom
16x zoom
16x zoom
Model V1000
Was £649.99
9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SAVE £150

CURRYS PRICE £499.99

CAMERAS SAVE UP TO £40

SANYO

8mm Camcorder with 16x Zoom Lens
16x zoom
16x zoom
16x zoom
Model V1000
Was £499.99
9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SAVE £40

CURRYS PRICE £459.99

PANASONIC

8mm Camcorder with 16x Zoom Lens
16x zoom
16x zoom
16x zoom
Model NV1000
Was £499.99
9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SAVE £40

CURRYS PRICE £459.99

SONY

8mm Camcorder with 16x Zoom Lens
16x zoom
16x zoom
16x zoom
Model DCR-PC1000
Was £499.99
9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SAVE £40

CURRYS PRICE £459.99

LATEST DIGITAL CAMCORDERS SAVE UP TO £300

JVC

Digital Camcorder with 2.5" Colour LCD Screen
100x super digital zoom
PCM digital stereo sound
Digital image stabiliser
Snapshot mode - recording up to 720 digital stills
Includes GV-DS2 digital docking station for downloading images to your PC
12 digital effects for post production
Model GR-DVX + GV-DS2
Total Separate Selling Price £1879.99, 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

CURRYS PRICE £1799.99

Available without Capture Box
Currys Price £1599.99

SONY

Digital Camcorder with 3" Colour LCD Screen
40x digital zoom
Audio dubbing (12-bit)
Super Steady Shot
PCM digital stereo sound
Model SC1000
Was £1499.99
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* LARGER STORES ONLY

CURRYS PRICE £1399.99

DIGITAL CAMERAS SAVE UP TO £150

CASIO

Digital Camera with 1.8" Colour LCD Screen
Download images direct to your PC
Model QV11A
Was £299.99
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* LARGER STORES ONLY

SAVE £100

CURRYS PRICE £199.99

KODAK

Digital Camera
Download images to your PC
1.8" colour LCD screen
Scores up to 30 images
24Mb internal memory
Model DC25
SUPERSTORES ONLY

SAVE £100

CURRYS PRICE £199.99

DIGITAL CAMERAS SAVE UP TO £150

SONY

Digital Camera with 1.8" Colour LCD Screen
Download images direct to your PC
Model DCR-PC1000
Was £499.99
9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* LARGER STORES ONLY

SAVE £100

CURRYS PRICE £399.99

SONY

Digital Camera with 1.8" Colour LCD Screen
Download images direct to your PC
Model DCR-PC1000
Was £499.99
9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* LARGER STORES ONLY

SAVE £100

CURRYS PRICE £399.99

Only Currys bring you all this...

MASTERCARD

Coverplan

PEACE OF MIND FOR YEARS TO COME

Currys offers a 3 year warranty on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come. Currys offers a 3 year warranty on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

WEEKLY DELIVERY

Currys offers weekly delivery on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE DELIVERY

Currys offers free delivery on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE INSTALLATION

Currys offers free installation on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MAINTENANCE

Currys offers free maintenance on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE REPAIRS

Currys offers free repairs on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE REPLACEMENT

Currys offers free replacement on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE WARRANTY

Currys offers free warranty on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE SERVICE

Currys offers free service on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE SUPPORT

Currys offers free support on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE TRAINING

Currys offers free training on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE CERTIFICATION

Currys offers free certification on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE REGISTRATION

Currys offers free registration on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE INSURANCE

Currys offers free insurance on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE PROTECTION

Currys offers free protection on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE SECURITY

Currys offers free security on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE SAFETY

Currys offers free safety on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE HEALTH

Currys offers free health on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE WELLNESS

Currys offers free wellness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE BEAUTY

Currys offers free beauty on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE FASHION

Currys offers free fashion on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE LIFESTYLE

Currys offers free lifestyle on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE WELLBEING

Currys offers free wellbeing on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE HAPPINESS

Currys offers free happiness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE LOVE

Currys offers free love on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE PEACE

Currys offers free peace on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE JOY

Currys offers free joy on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE KINDNESS

Currys offers free kindness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE GENTLENESS

Currys offers free gentleness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MILDNESS

Currys offers free mildness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MEekNESS

Currys offers free meekness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MODESTY

Currys offers free modesty on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE TEMPERANCE

Currys offers free temperance on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE SELF-CONTROL

Currys offers free self-control on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE DISCIPLINE

Currys offers free discipline on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE ORDER

Currys offers free order on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE CLEANLINESS

Currys offers free cleanliness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE NEATNESS

Currys offers free neatness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE TIDINESS

Currys offers free tidiness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE ORGANIZATION

Currys offers free organization on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE EFFICIENCY

Currys offers free efficiency on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE PRODUCTIVITY

Currys offers free productivity on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE ABILITY

Currys offers free ability on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE SKILL

Currys offers free skill on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE KNOWLEDGE

Currys offers free knowledge on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE WISDOM

Currys offers free wisdom on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE UNDERSTANDING

Currys offers free understanding on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE COMPASSION

Currys offers free compassion on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE KINDNESS

Currys offers free kindness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE GENTLENESS

Currys offers free gentleness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MILDNESS

Currys offers free mildness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MEekNESS

Currys offers free meekness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MODESTY

Currys offers free modesty on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE TEMPERANCE

Currys offers free temperance on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE SELF-CONTROL

Currys offers free self-control on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE DISCIPLINE

Currys offers free discipline on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE ORDER

Currys offers free order on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE CLEANLINESS

Currys offers free cleanliness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE NEATNESS

Currys offers free neatness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE TIDINESS

Currys offers free tidiness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE ORGANIZATION

Currys offers free organization on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE EFFICIENCY

Currys offers free efficiency on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE PRODUCTIVITY

Currys offers free productivity on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE ABILITY

Currys offers free ability on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE SKILL

Currys offers free skill on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE KNOWLEDGE

Currys offers free knowledge on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE WISDOM

Currys offers free wisdom on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE UNDERSTANDING

Currys offers free understanding on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE COMPASSION

Currys offers free compassion on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE KINDNESS

Currys offers free kindness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE GENTLENESS

Currys offers free gentleness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MILDNESS

Currys offers free mildness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MEekNESS

Currys offers free meekness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MODESTY

Currys offers free modesty on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE TEMPERANCE

Currys offers free temperance on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE SELF-CONTROL

Currys offers free self-control on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE DISCIPLINE

Currys offers free discipline on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE ORDER

Currys offers free order on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE CLEANLINESS

Currys offers free cleanliness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE NEATNESS

Currys offers free neatness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE TIDINESS

Currys offers free tidiness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE ORGANIZATION

Currys offers free organization on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE EFFICIENCY

Currys offers free efficiency on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE PRODUCTIVITY

Currys offers free productivity on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE ABILITY

Currys offers free ability on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE SKILL

Currys offers free skill on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE KNOWLEDGE

Currys offers free knowledge on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE WISDOM

Currys offers free wisdom on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE UNDERSTANDING

Currys offers free understanding on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE COMPASSION

Currys offers free compassion on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE KINDNESS

Currys offers free kindness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE GENTLENESS

Currys offers free gentleness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MILDNESS

Currys offers free mildness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MEekNESS

Currys offers free meekness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MODESTY

Currys offers free modesty on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE TEMPERANCE

Currys offers free temperance on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE SELF-CONTROL

Currys offers free self-control on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE DISCIPLINE

Currys offers free discipline on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE ORDER

Currys offers free order on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE CLEANLINESS

Currys offers free cleanliness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE NEATNESS

Currys offers free neatness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE TIDINESS

Currys offers free tidiness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE ORGANIZATION

Currys offers free organization on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE EFFICIENCY

Currys offers free efficiency on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE PRODUCTIVITY

Currys offers free productivity on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE ABILITY

Currys offers free ability on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE SKILL

Currys offers free skill on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE KNOWLEDGE

Currys offers free knowledge on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE WISDOM

Currys offers free wisdom on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE UNDERSTANDING

Currys offers free understanding on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE COMPASSION

Currys offers free compassion on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE KINDNESS

Currys offers free kindness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE GENTLENESS

Currys offers free gentleness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MILDNESS

Currys offers free mildness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MEekNESS

Currys offers free meekness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MODESTY

Currys offers free modesty on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE TEMPERANCE

Currys offers free temperance on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE SELF-CONTROL

Currys offers free self-control on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE DISCIPLINE

Currys offers free discipline on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE ORDER

Currys offers free order on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE CLEANLINESS

Currys offers free cleanliness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE NEATNESS

Currys offers free neatness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE TIDINESS

Currys offers free tidiness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE ORGANIZATION

Currys offers free organization on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE EFFICIENCY

Currys offers free efficiency on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE PRODUCTIVITY

Currys offers free productivity on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE ABILITY

Currys offers free ability on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE SKILL

Currys offers free skill on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE KNOWLEDGE

Currys offers free knowledge on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE WISDOM

Currys offers free wisdom on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE UNDERSTANDING

Currys offers free understanding on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE COMPASSION

Currys offers free compassion on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE KINDNESS

Currys offers free kindness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE GENTLENESS

Currys offers free gentleness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MILDNESS

Currys offers free mildness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MEekNESS

Currys offers free meekness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE MODESTY

Currys offers free modesty on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE TEMPERANCE

Currys offers free temperance on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE SELF-CONTROL

Currys offers free self-control on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE DISCIPLINE

Currys offers free discipline on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE ORDER

Currys offers free order on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE CLEANLINESS

Currys offers free cleanliness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE NEATNESS

Currys offers free neatness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE TIDINESS

Currys offers free tidiness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE ORGANIZATION

Currys offers free organization on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE EFFICIENCY

Currys offers free efficiency on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE PRODUCTIVITY

Currys offers free productivity on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE ABILITY

Currys offers free ability on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE SKILL

Currys offers free skill on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE KNOWLEDGE

Currys offers free knowledge on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE WISDOM

Currys offers free wisdom on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE UNDERSTANDING

Currys offers free understanding on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE COMPASSION

Currys offers free compassion on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

FREE KINDNESS

Currys offers free kindness on all major appliances. If you buy a Currys appliance, you can be sure it will last for years to come.

11/CLINTON SCANDAL

Privates on parade as sex harassment case turns ugly



As Bill Clinton busies himself with the affairs of state in Washington, a court in Arkansas is working steadily through the preliminaries of a case that threatens to expose a cruder side to the President. But Americans cannot decide whether they want to know about it or not, as Mary Dejevsky reports.

This week, television viewers in Washington DC were surprised to see a commercial featuring a picture of a woman looking very like Paula Jones - the woman who accuses Bill Clinton of exposing himself to her in an Arkansas hotel room six years

ago and asking for oral sex. The commercial asks for women who may have been "sexually harassed by the President" to register their complaints.

No one ever pretended that the lawsuit known as "Paula Jones v the President of the United States" would be an edifying experience. Since late summer, however, when Ms Jones rejected a financial settlement - rumoured to be close to the \$700,000 she had originally claimed - sacked her lawyers and hired an aggressive PR consultant, things have started to get brutal.

Ms Jones has submitted a list of intimate questions to Mr Clinton in an attempt to solicit details of his sex life and his anatomy. Her lawyers have also named - and in at least one case, subpoenaed - women believed to be former girlfriends of the President, including Gennifer

Flowers. She is the woman named during the 1992 election campaign as his long-time mistress, who has steadfastly refused to speak against him.

The strategy is two-fold: to show "a pattern of behaviour" in Mr Clinton's past and to demonstrate the veracity of an affidavit Ms Jones reportedly swore when she first brought her case three years ago that could prove her case. In the affidavit, Ms Jones apparently describes "distinguishing characteristics" of Mr Clinton's "genital area".

Last month, it seemed the puzzle of the distinguishing characteristics had been solved, when newspapers quoted "sources" as saying she referred to a curvature of the President's erect penis - a phenomenon said to be caused by Peyronie's disease. The theory was backed up by more "in-

formed sources" saying that Mr Clinton had been tested for this condition during his annual medical examination the previous week.

Meanwhile, the court in Little Rock, Arkansas, was embarking on the preliminary hearings of witnesses that are a prelude to most American court cases. So far, evidence has been taken from Ms Jones's close relatives, former colleagues, and a couple of women said to have been high-school girlfriends of Bill Clinton.

The odds that the case will actually come to court on the appointed date of 26 May have shortened dramatically. Having rejected a settlement said to be close to what she had asked for, because it was conditional on Mr Clinton not accepting responsibility or apologising, Ms Jones is said to want only to restore her reputation.

Mr Clinton's lawyer, Robert Bennett, has done his utmost to keep the case out of court (and out of the headlines). After failing to have the case deferred - to protect the President from distraction during his term of office - or dismissed for lack of evidence, Mr Bennett has successfully persuaded the judge to impose a "gag" order on the preliminary hearings to prevent the testimony from becoming public.

In keeping the case low-key, however, Mr Bennett has also been considerably helped by the ambivalence of the American media about what should and should not be disclosed. Popular curiosity comes up against American prudishness and deference to the office of the presidency. Even before the gag order, little emerged from the Little Rock hearings, and the reporting of the distinguishing

characteristics and related matters has been highly politicised.

The mainstream media, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and network television, have fought shy of even mentioning penile matters. Details have been reported, however, not just by the tabloids, but by the right-wing anti-Clinton *Washington Times*.

This media division lends support to the view that Ms Jones - who is thousands of dollars in debt to two former sets of lawyers - may have funding from a section of the religious right that wants to discredit Mr Clinton as President and politician and will stop at nothing to do so. Ms Jones, however, denies that her cause is in any way political, and the pleas for funds that scatter the Internet on her behalf suggest that, wherever her funding comes from, she could do with more.



THE FIRST TO LAUNCH 3 COMPLETELY NEW CARS AT ONCE, FROM THE FIRST TO LAUNCH 3 YEARS PEACE OF MIND.

In 1995 we were the first car company to give you 3 years total peace of mind. This means you get the following as standard on every new Daewoo:

- 1) 3 year/60,000 mile free servicing, including all labour and parts.
- 2) 3 year/60,000 comprehensive warranty.
- 3) 3 year Daewoo Total AA Cover.
- 4) Free courtesy car during service.

Now, after an investment of over £1.5 billion, we're the first car company to launch 3 completely

new ranges all at once: the 3, 4 and 5 door Lanos, the Nubira saloon and estate, and the Leganza saloon.

The fixed prices of our new cars range from just £8,795 to £14,995.

So if you're looking for a new car then why not pay us a visit? You may even get the chance to be one of the 100 drivers chosen to test drive our new cars absolutely free for a year.

To find out where your nearest store is call 0800 666 222.

Impossible to ignore?

That'll be the

Daewoo.

President who can even charm enemies

Some of the qualities that explain why so many Americans are prepared to give the US President the benefit of the doubt in the Paula Jones case - or even forgive him if necessary - were fully on display yesterday, when Mr Clinton went to College Station in Texas to inaugurate the presidential library of his predecessor at the White House, George Bush.

Bill Clinton's personal charm and political savvy are second to none and have recently elicited grudging respect even from Mr Bush - who dismissed his rival during the 1992 election campaign as a "bozo".

His lightning trip to Texas allowed him not only to mend fences gracefully with his predecessor but also to earn political capital for his bid to obtain what is known as "fast track" authority from Congress. The Senate is expected to vote today on whether it will restore "fast track" authority to the President to negotiate international trade agreements -

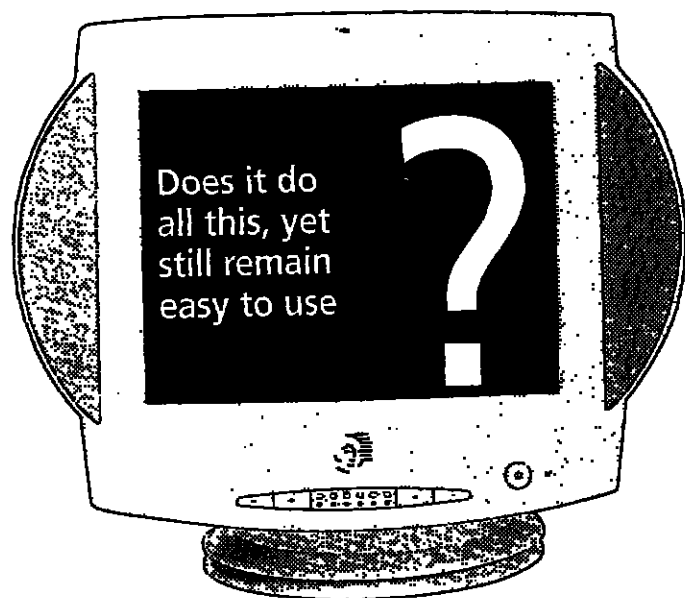
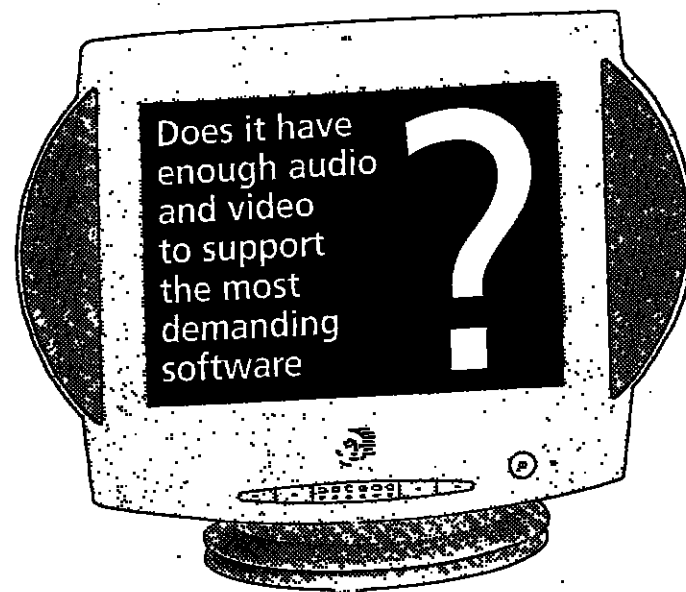
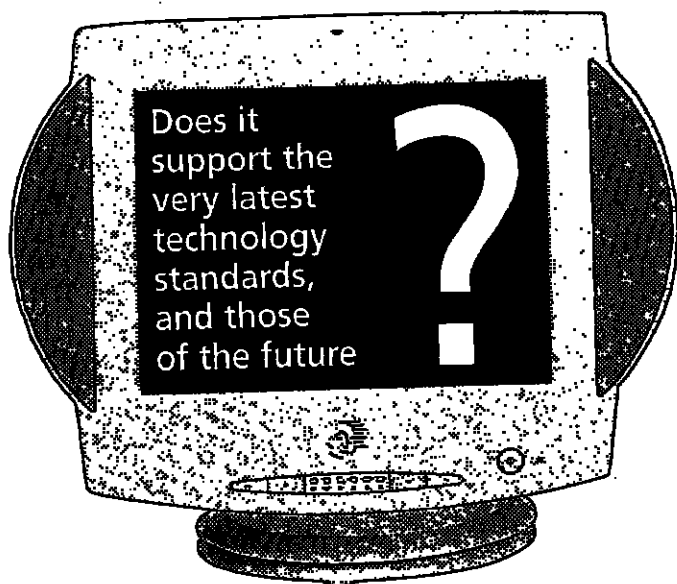
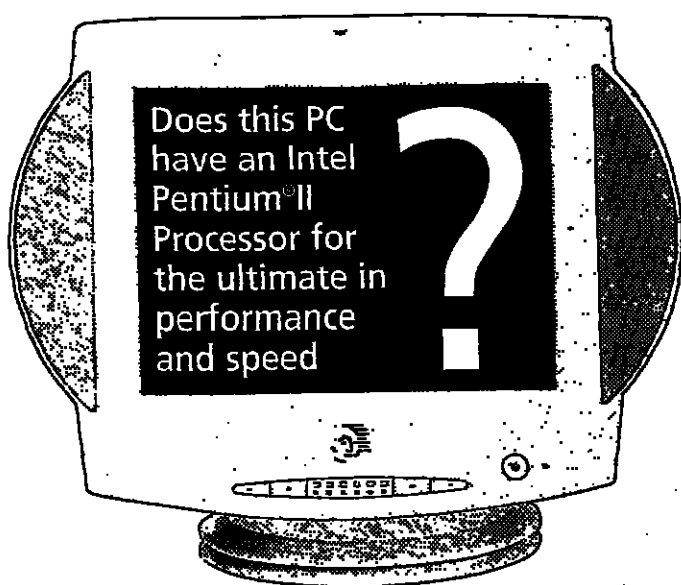
a power that would allow Congress to approve or reject an agreement, but not to amend it.

Inaugurating the Bush library yesterday, Mr Clinton paid elegant and generous tribute to his predecessor at the White House, recalling his war record, his long and loyal public service and the positive aspects of his single-term presidency. Beforehand, however, he shamelessly exploited the presence at the ceremony of four previous presidents - all of whom had enjoyed fast-track authority in their time - to press his own political campaign of the moment.

Mingling easily with his predecessors, Mr Clinton extracted from Mr Bush a statement of "great respect for what the President is trying to do in getting fast track through this Congress", and from Jimmy Carter the view that failure would be "a slap in the face for our friends and allies in Latin America".

— Mary Dejevsky

Only Packard Bell can say 'Yes' to all this.



Only one PC can say yes to these six vital questions. The Packard Bell Pulsar 24 PC.

It's got all the advanced computing power of the latest Pentium® II Processor to provide unrivalled speed and performance.

And thanks to a 4Mb graphics card and built-in surround sound with a 10W subwoofer, the Packard Bell Pulsar 24 makes multimedia look and sound better than ever before.

In addition, like all other Packard Bell computers, the Pulsar 24 comes with £1000 of free top software, all pre-loaded and ready to use, together with everything you need to surf the Net straight away.*

Also the Packard Bell Personal Assistant Pack makes using the Pulsar 24 child's play.

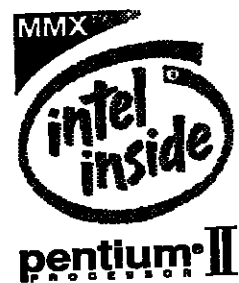
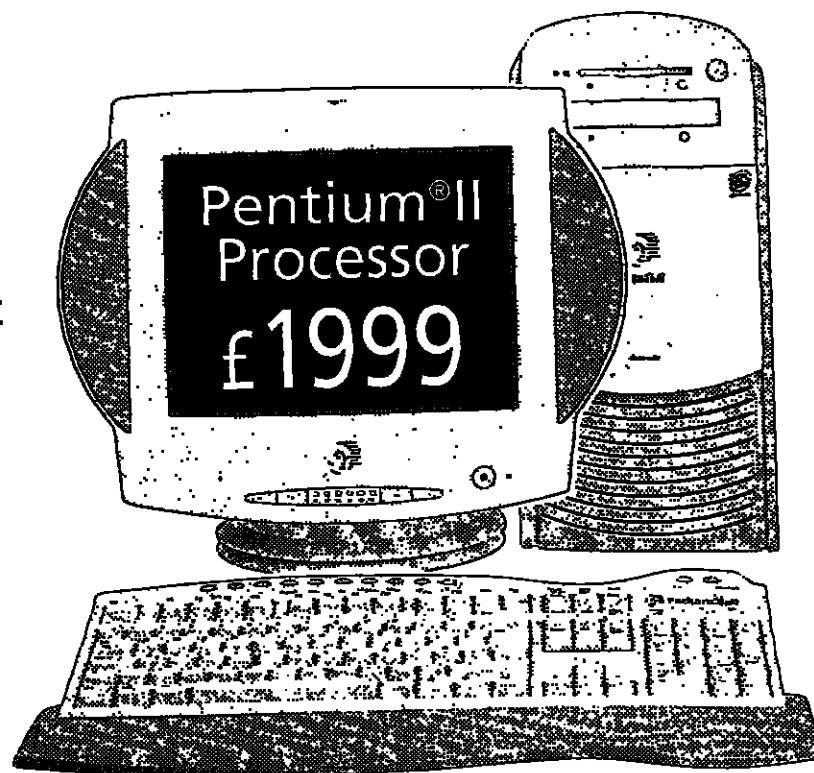
All of which makes it the ideal PC if you demand high performance and low prices.

That's why we suggest you see it at PC World, Dixons and Currys today.

We think you'll agree that no other PC comes close to matching it.

The Packard Bell Pulsar 24 PC:

- Pentium® II Processor 233 MHz
- 32 Mb SDRAM • 4.3 Gb Ultra DMA HDD
- 4 Mb PCI graphics • x24 speed CD-ROM
- 56K modem with US Robotics x2 technology • 15" monitor



Packard Bell™

THE COMPUTER THE WORLD COMES HOME TO

Available at PC World, Dixons and Currys

* Subject to subscription charges. Model featured is a Pulsar 24 with 15" monitor. Configurations vary according to model. Value of software based on separate selling price of actual or equivalent software, less value of manuals not included for pre-loaded software. The Intel inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX a trademark of the Intel corporation.

Girls beha
badly pos
new prob

هكذا من الامم

24.75

Girls behaving badly pose a new problem

Despite years of warnings, more young women are drinking too much and, for the first time, the proportion who smoke has risen.

Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, looks at why bright young women are acquiring bad habits.

Every year since 1972 smoking has been on the decline in Britain. But this year for the first time young women are bucking the trend. The Office for National Statistics warned yesterday that smoking amongst women - and particularly young women - is again on the rise.

Coupled with that, large amounts of young women are now drinking more than the recommended maximum amount of alcohol a week. Whereas the Department of Health has recommended 14 units as a "safe" level since 1984, the numbers of women drinking above that level has increased by half as much again.

Health campaigners are worried that young women are increasingly pursuing habits which damage their health. A greater amount of disposable income - particularly among single women, those working and women under 25 - means they can indulge themselves.

The results of the General Household Survey found that while cigarette smoking has risen by 2 per cent amongst women generally (the reverse was true of men) among the 16- to 19-year-olds the increase was 5 per cent and among the 25- to 34-year-olds 4 per cent.

The ONS findings reflect

those of the Health Education Authority which has warned that lung cancer deaths are set to overtake breast cancer as the biggest killer of women. The authority said yesterday that it is launching an anti-smoking campaign which will focus on women, particularly teenagers. A third of 15-year-olds were smoking and the evidence suggested that they are taking the habit onwards.

"We are very concerned," said a spokesman for the HEA. "Why young women are smoking more is the million dollar question but we're trying to find out." He said the media had played a role, especially in films in which smoking was associated with glamour and power.

A spokeswoman for ASH - Action on Smoking and Health - said that there was no single explanation for the rise. "But tobacco companies are spending £100m on advertising whereas the Government are spending £10m on anti-smoking education."

Both more men and women are recorded as drinking over sensible levels in the GHS but the significant increase is amongst women and again the largest increase is among younger women - a quarter of 18- to 24-year-olds drink more than they should.

Earlier this year it was reported that the number of women drinking above recommended levels rose by 50 per cent between 1984 and 1994, and a study by Alcohol Concern said that 500,000 women now drink at "very risky" levels - defined as more than 50 units a week (or 25 pints of ordinary beer or six bottles of wine).

● *Living in Britain: Preliminary Results from the 1996 General Household Survey: Stationery Office; £10.*



Drink problem: Health surveys show young women are drinking and smoking too much

Photograph: Joel Chan

Elderly least likely to be burgled

Elderly people are less likely than those in any other age group to suffer burglary. Glenda Cooper looks at a survey which provides a unique snapshot of our life today.

Living in a household where there are one or two elderly people over the age of 60 carries a much lower risk of burglary than any other household, according to a survey.

The preliminary results from the 1996 General Household Survey show that the burglary rate was 23 per 1,000 households compared to 55 per 1,000 where adults and children live. The survey also revealed that the burglary rate has fallen from 4.6 per cent in 1993 to 3.3 per cent in 1996.

"There is a popular view that elderly people living alone are more likely to be vulnerable but they are less likely to be burgled," said Paul Hunter, the survey's principal researcher.

Those living in detached houses were also less likely to be burgled than their neighbours in semi-detached or terraced houses. Those most at risk from break-ins were those living in private rented accom-

modation or those in social housing.

A spokesman for Age Concern said: "The reason why elderly people suffer less burglaries is that a lot of burglaries occur during the day when people are out, but older people tend to be in."

"But it should be reassuring for older people who can sometimes feel vulnerable and have a fear of crime. There is also a misconception that older people are likely to be attacked in the street but statistically young, single men are much more at risk. The one exception is bogus callers where people impersonate officials. We would warn old people to take care. Keep the chain on until you are sure who the caller is."

The survey also looks at the way households have changed over the 25 years since it was first carried out. While the proportion of lone parent families rose steadily through the 1970s and 1980s it is leveling off in the 1990s. However, 21 per cent of families are now headed by a lone parent compared with 8 per cent in 1971.

The most common type of household is a married couple with no dependent children. One in four women now choose to cohabit rather than get married, and the average family has 1.8 children.

SNAPSHOT OF A CHANGING BRITAIN

- One in five families are now headed by a lone parent.
- One in four women live with a partner rather than marrying.
- The number of people owning CD players has more than doubled in the last five years.
- Seven out of 10 households have a car or van compared to half in 1972.
- Two thirds of households now own their homes compared to just under half in 1971.
- In 1996, 69 per cent of all adults had an educational qualification, compared to 41 per cent 20 years earlier.
- More than one in five men and women say they have a limiting chronic illness - double the proportion in 1972.
- Nearly two thirds of us take part in some physical activity.
- Three per cent of households were burgled in 1996, down from 4.6 per cent in 1993.

1 1/2 PRICE SALE

OVER 50% OFF - MUST END!

OVER 50% OFF SELECTED BATHROOM SUITES

LAST CHANCE
FITTED FOR CHRISTMAS WITH
NOTHING TO REPAY
UNTIL SUMMER 1998!

EVERYTHING'S TAKEN CARE OF WITH THE DOLPHIN SERVICE
Design, planning, installation, plumbing, electrics, plastering and tiling.

OVER 50% OFF
THIS ELEGANT COUNTRY BATHROOM SUITE
MUST END!

LUXURY BATHROOM EXTRAS
LAST CHANCE
AT LESS THAN
HALF PRICE

TURBO SPATIFY	was £245	now £199
ANTIQUE PINE JAMBY HINE	was £185	now £159
POWER SHOWER - N1000	was £172	now £155
7 PIECE ACCESSORY SET	was £120	now £99

FOR A FREE CATALOGUE OR DETAILS OF OUR FREE DESIGN SERVICE CALL
0800 626717
Kitchens and Bathroom centres in all showrooms
MOST SHOWROOMS OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 10.00-5.00PM MON-THU 10.00-6.00PM FRI 10.00-6.30PM SAT 10.00-5.00PM SUNDAY 12.00-5.00PM

The national bathroom specialists **Dolphin**

24.7% APR VARIABLE

1997 'Top Direct Lender Over Two Years' - What Mortgage Magazine.

NO

arrangement fees,
valuation fees,
mortgage indemnity fees,
early redemption penalties.

wonder other mortgage
lenders are worried.

Interest Payable (gross)	
£195,286	
£195,521	
£195,372	
£178,256	

Source: Mortgage Magazine

- They should be, because not one of these mortgage lenders can compete with Direct Line.
- As the table shows our variable rate mortgage could save you almost £50* per month.
- No legal fees if you transfer your mortgage without moving house†.
- We refund your valuation costs.
- No arrangement, mortgage indemnity or early redemption fees.
- You can borrow up to 90% of the value of your home.
- We guarantee to save you 20%†† on your existing buildings insurance.
- No reason to call anyone else then when you can call Direct Line.

0181 649 9099 **0161 831 9099** **0141 221 9099**

LONDON **MANCHESTER** **GLASGOW**

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. INDI57
www.directline.co.uk Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SH

*Based on a £100,000 mortgage at 6.5% variable rate. Standard valuation fee will be £100. †If you transfer your mortgage to Direct Line, we will pay the excess up to a maximum of £1,000 of the existing lender's fees. ††Based on a £100,000 mortgage at 6.5% variable rate. Standard valuation fee will be £100. ††Based on a £100,000 mortgage at 6.5% variable rate. Standard valuation fee will be £100.

Rainstorms kill 31 in southern Spain and Portugal

More than 20 people died in Spain and at least 11 in Portugal yesterday after torrential rainstorms ravaged the southern part of both countries. In Spain the region of Extremadura, near the Portuguese border, was worst affected, with roads and railways cut and electricity and telephone lines down. Extremadura's regional governor called for the area to be declared a disaster zone and urged people not to drive on the motorways, which had turned into rivers. Andalusia was also badly affected, with the fishing fleet confined to port and the River Guadalquivir near Cadiz 15 metres higher than usual and on the point of bursting its banks. Seville and Cordoba were among the towns devastated by storm damage. Army units were mobilised to help people trapped in their homes and to clear the forest of fallen trees that lay strewn across the country. Forecasters said the 100kph rainstorms would gradually ease off, but that strong westerly winds would continue.

— Elizabeth Nash, Madrid



After the deluge: Residents of Badajoz in Extremadura, Spain clear up yesterday. Rain turned roads into rivers. Photograph: Reuters

Serb soldier confesses to war atrocities

A Serbian paramilitary fighter in the wars in Croatia and Bosnia has admitted torturing and killing up to 80 people, including women, and said he cut off Muslims' ears for sale. "I am a dead man and nothing worse can happen to me," Stobodan Mistic, a former convict, told the Serbian newspaper *Novine Vranjske*. "I am 50 years old, and I am sick of lying."

Serbia has denied involvement in the wars in Bosnia and Croatia after they declared independence from the federation in 1991-92. Mistic's account was the first since the wars that a Serbian paramilitary soldier has openly admitted to committing atrocities to the domestic media and public.

He said he did not regret his actions, except the murders of two Muslim women.

"I would do the same again, if something were to break out in Kosovo," he said, referring to the troubled Albanian-majority province in southern Serbia. Asked if he wasn't tired of killing, he replied: "The biggest

mistake is when you kill for the first time. After that it just goes on its own... You can't understand how it is. It gets into your blood, your brain. Like a drug. You just can't go without it."

He said he volunteered in 1991 because he "could not bear to see mass crimes against the Serb population" and was sent to the front line near Vukovar in Croatia.

The first man Mistic said he killed was a Croat: "First I was scared and nauseated, but after two or three days you get used to everything." He said the largest number of people were killed in Vukovar. "They killed us, we killed them."

When the war started in Bosnia in April 1992 he joined local paramilitary units operating in eastern Bosnia. They "cleaned out the Muslim villages, one by one."

When short of funds, he said he sold Muslims' ears to Serbs for 50 German marks apiece. He said he always cut off the ears personally, and always the left ear. "One ear — one Muslim," he said.

— Reuters, Belgrade

Blair summit call for EU reform

President Jacques Chirac and his Socialist Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, arrived last night for their "Docklands summit" with Tony Blair, to be greeted by a new British call for sweeping reform of the European Union institutions.

Returning to a theme that Britain intends to imprint upon its forthcoming EU presidency, Mr Blair said Europe was not functioning to the benefit of its people, and the "necessary changes" had to be made in its structures.

"We're not creating enough jobs, we have to learn to co-operate better," he told the French daily *Le Monde*.

Mr Chirac's first stops were the traditional ones of a meeting the Queen at Buckingham Palace, followed by a dinner at 10 Downing Street.

Thereafter, however, the tempo and the setting change completely — to serious talks, not in Whitehall but the steel and glass modernity of Canary

Wharf, intended by Mr Blair as a showcase for the new and youthful Britain. The décor, the menu, even the views of the nearby Millennium Dome site, all seek to convey a vigorous, creative country.

The discussions themselves are expected to be amicable enough, especially as the French truck-drivers' dispute seemed last night to be edging towards settlement. But Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will seek assurances that the planned Euro-council, informally grouping member-countries of the single currency, will not prove a device that excludes Britain from key European deliberations.

Other topics will be the crisis in Iraq and the situation in Bosnia. Among the bilateral agreements to be signed is one for an electronic link-up of 100 British and French schools, and a Paris memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales.

Rupert Cornwell



plus free installation
when you buy a Sony Playstation package or any electrical item over £199, subscribe to any of Sky's channels for 12 months and pay a one off connection fee of £12

Sky channel packages currently range from £11.99 per month to £29.99 per month.

Offer not open to previous or existing subscribers or their households.
Offer subject to conditions.
Offer closes 16th November 1997.

Exclusively live:
FA Carling Premiership, England's internationals at Wembley, rugby matches at Twickenham and overseas cricket tour to the West Indies

www.sky.co.uk

See your nearest participating Sky retailer now or call

0800 000 570

Offer available at participating retailers only and only to residents of mainland UK or Northern Ireland. Subscribers must be 18 years or over; eligibility subject to status. Subscription prices may vary in accordance with the terms of the Subscription Contract. Pay per view events or programmes are not included within the subscription. This offer may not be used in conjunction with any other offer, nor is this offer available to pubs, clubs or similar establishments. Sky reserves the right to refuse applications for the offer at its discretion. One application for this offer only per household. Full details of offer and subscription available from participating retailers or Sky Subscribers Services Ltd, PO Box 43, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 7DD.

LIFT THE LID OFF BUYING DIRECT. UNDER THIS COVER.



Discover what really happens when you buy direct. For the first time ever, a UK computer magazine has gone undercover and investigated the real service levels currently offered to the private PC buyer. All is revealed in our December issue which also includes £350 worth of free, full working software plus a Microsoft CD sampler, an offer exclusive to Personal Computer World readers.

19 YEARS' EXPERIENCE SETS US A WORLD APART

سكرا من الامن

Stronger Saddam tests US power in the Middle East

Iraq and the UN have backed away from immediate confrontation over the American members of the UN strategic weapons monitoring team. But the longer-term indications are gloomy.

Our correspondent reports on the latest bout between Iraq and the US and asks if the status quo in the Middle East since the end of the Gulf war is beginning to collapse.

would like to replace Saddam Hussein, but by a coup not a revolution. It does not want Iraq to break up, with the majority Iraqi Shia community siding with Iran and the Iraqi Kurds seeking independence. It is useful to have President Saddam as a bogeyman to keep Saudi Arabia and Kuwait firmly allied to the US.

But there is also no doubt that Iraq has tried to hide as

the defection, return and execution of General Hussein Kamel, his son-in-law, has died down for the moment.

The US position is a little weaker than it was in the Middle East. It has failed to push Israel to reach an agreement with the Palestinians. The Oslo accords are in tatters. The Arab world is angry but impatient. Western Europe does not support American economic sanctions against Iran.

But the US will fight hard to keep its dominance in the Middle East. This means maintaining the status quo of 1991 and the embargo on Iraq. The rest of the world may be suffering from "sanctions fatigue" - but not Washington. And neither France, Russia nor China wants to confront the US on this issue. The latest crisis over weapons inspection show that President Saddam thinks he has a better chance than before of breaking the siege of his country, but he still has a long way to go.

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

much of its strategic weapons arsenal as possible. In 1995, 130 gyroscopes and guidance systems taken from old Soviet SS-18 missiles were intercepted at Amman airport on their way to Baghdad. Iraq had paid \$2m for them and their only possible purpose is to guide long-range missiles.

The numbers of such weapons is unlikely to be large. Toxins like anthrax are not a weapon of mass destruction in the same sense as a nuclear device. Iraq successfully fired al-Hussein Scud missiles at Saudi Arabia and Israel in the Gulf war without benefit to itself. It did not dare use the chemical and nerve gases it had in storage during the war because of fear of retaliation.

It is irrational for the Iraqi leader to fight so hard to retain these weapons, since they provide such a handy excuse for the US to maintain sanctions. The explanation is probably simple megalomania and a desire to show 20 million Iraqis and the rest of the world that he cannot be pushed around.

His past behaviour proves that Saddam Hussein has a good, if brutal, understanding of Iraqi politics. It is the international reaction to his moves that he misjudges, as when he invaded Iran in 1980 and Kuwait in 1990.

President Saddam's willingness to stage a confrontation now also probably reflects confidence that his strength is growing. He is in a stronger position at home than five years ago. Last year he successfully intervened with his tanks in Iraqi Kurdistan and US planes did not attack him. The Iraqi opposition had to flee the Kurdish mountains. A plot for a military coup in Baghdad backed by the CIA collapsed. The family feuding which led to

COHEN FIRES WARNING SHOT IN ARMS ROW

William Cohen, the United States Defense Secretary, warned Iraq yesterday that it is violating United Nations Security Council resolutions by blocking UN weapons inspectors, and said economic or military steps against Baghdad might be the result.

"This is not a negotiable item," Mr Cohen said.

For the fourth time yesterday, Saddam Hussein barred American members of an international inspection team from entering the country to look for biological and chemical weapons. The Iraqi leader claims the Americans are bent on spying.

Mr Cohen's statement echoed others from UN officials that the Iraqi blockade is in clear violation of the 1991 ceasefire accords that ended the Gulf War. UN officials have charged the

Iraqis with taking advantage of a two-week forced halt in weapons inspections to disable surveillance cameras and hide key equipment at suspected arms sites, and Mr Cohen said that Washington agrees with those assessments.

There is sufficient time to consider "a whole panoply" of steps that might be taken in response to the Iraqi intransigence, Mr Cohen said.

Asked whether they included US military strikes, he added: "They could include further economic measures, they could include military as well." Iraqi attempts to separate Americans out of the UN inspections teams are doomed to failure, he added.

"They are not going to be able to divide the United States from the United Nations."

— AP, Washington



Women hope for food from the Red Crescent in Baghdad. Saddam thinks the weapons crisis will help break the siege of Iraq

Photograph: Reuters

FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM

WHEN YOU SPEND OVER £199 ON ANYTHING AT COMET

Subscribe to any Sky package for 12 months and pay a one-off connection fee of £12. Offer is not available to previous or existing subscribers and members of their households.

Christmas Sale ON MAJOR KITCHEN APPLIANCES

This Bosch washing machine features 'Fuzzy Logic' technology which ensures that rinsing times and spinning speeds are adjusted precisely to the wash load being used.

BOSCH 1000 SPIN WASHING MACHINE

"Spin speed selection dial makes this a versatile model"

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING INSTITUTE - AWARD WINNER

- 400-1000 spin speed • 11lb wash load
- 18 programme combinations

Model WFF2030, was £609.99

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SALE £499.99 SAVE £110

The unique design of the Hotpoint Mistral gives you an extra cubic foot of storage space, so there's more room for all your food this Christmas.

Hotpoint 12.0 GROSS CU.FT. FROST-FREE FRIDGE FREEZER

"Spacious and versatile"

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING INSTITUTE - RECOMMENDED

- 7.2 cu.ft. gross fridge capacity
- 4.8 cu.ft. gross freezer capacity
- Set and forget temperature controls
- Zoned cooling - so food is at correct temperature

Model 5564 POLAR MISTRAL, was £729.99

COLOUR OPTIONS AVAILABLE AT £649.99

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SALE £599.99 SAVE £130

Speed less time in the kitchen

Up to 25 to choose from in store

ZANUSSI FULL SIZE DISHWASHER

- 12 place settings
- 4 programme combinations
- Quick wash & final sterilising
- Detergent recovery system

Model DW907, was £429.99

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SALE £299.99 SAVE £130

SAVE MONEY ON SELECTED MODELS

BOSCH FULL SIZE DISHWASHER

- 12 place settings
- 5 programme combinations
- Economy wash

Model SGG5302, was £199.99

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SALE £139.99 SAVE £70

Delicious Christmas food

Up to 123 to choose from in store

Electric COOKER

- 600mm width
- Ceramic hob & double oven
- Easy clean liners

Model FORTAT 633 GREEN, was £349.99

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SALE £199.99 SAVE £150

FREE GREEN MICROWAVE

Electric COOKER

- 600mm width
- Double oven
- Easy clean liners

Model S221 BLUE, was £389.99

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SALE £199.99 SAVE £130

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

STOVES GAS COOKER

- 600mm width
- Double oven
- Easy clean liners

Model PANACHE 500S WHITE, was £349.99

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SALE £149.99 SAVE £200

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

Canon GAS COOKER

- 600mm width
- Double oven
- 2 different sizes of burner/spark ignition

Model 101538, was £399.99

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SALE £199.99 SAVE £200

FREE GREEN MICROWAVE

BUILT-IN COOKERS

Up to 38 to choose from in store

Hotpoint BROWN BUILT-IN PACKAGE

- Electric DOUBLE OVEN
- Model B231, was £599.99
- In-store £749.99
- GAS HOOD Model B211, was £169.99
- In-store £189.99
- COOKER HOOD was £39.99
- In-store £39.99

ALSO AVAILABLE IN POLAR WHITE

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SALE £719.99 SAVE £150

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

MICROWAVES

Up to 40 to choose from in store

Hotpoint VERSATILITO TOUCH CONTROL GRILL MICROWAVE

- 950 watts ECO 0.5 cu.ft. capacity
- 5 power levels • 1200 watts grill

Model DLS3, was £299.99 In-store £189.99

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SALE £149.99 HALF PRICE

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

PROLINE BLUE TOUCH CONTROL MICROWAVE

- 750 watts ECO
- 0.5 cu.ft. capacity
- 10 power levels

Model ST22 BL, was £294.99 previously £109.99, £299.99 In-store £189.99

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SALE £79.99 SAVE £30

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

Panasonic TOUCH CONTROL COMBINATION MICROWAVE

- 900 watts ECO
- 1.1 cu.ft. capacity
- 6 power levels

Model NN2577, was £219.99 previously £229.99

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SALE £299.99 SAVE £30

FREE GLASS COOKWARE

COMET

COMET IS THE BIGGEST OUT-OF-TOWN ELECTRICAL RETAILER, SO THERE'S BOUND TO BE A STORE NEAR YOU

For local store details phone free on 0800 425 425. Visit our web site at: www.comet.co.uk



Make someone happy this Christmas



THE I
FRIDAY
7 NOV

Io, one of Jupiter's moons (right), photographed in April by the Galileo craft, and again five months later (centre) showing a grey spot, 250 miles across, of new lava, meaning that Io could in theory harbour life (Photos: Nasa). Unlike a black hole (far right) whose massive spinning forces distort space and even time. Artist's representation: Joe Bergeron/Sky and Telescope Magazine



I'm worried that
my business will
be left behind.

I need to
find new ways to
compete.

(On November 10th, find out what you're missing.)

Einstein passes black hole test

Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity is 81 years old - but astronomers are still finding experimental ways to test it. The latest, from observations of five spinning black holes, demonstrates that one of the major pieces of scientific thinking of this century is correct. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, explains:

Observations have confirmed an essential tenet of Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity - that huge, spinning objects "drag" space and time around them, distorting the fabric of the universe.

A team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) announced yesterday that it has found evidence of "frame dragging", as the phenomenon is called, around five spinning black holes in our galaxy.

Einstein's theory suggests that any object distorts space and time around it, rather like a ball bearing placed on a stretched rubber sheet. Central to this theory is the idea that any observer moving at a constant velocity will have a self-consistent "frame of reference". So someone travelling almost at the speed of light will find that his watch runs normally and light travels at the normal 186,000 miles per second. But someone at rest compared to the traveller will observe that the traveller's watch seems to run more slowly, and that the traveller (and watch) are far more massive than those at rest. But light still travels at 186,000 miles per second.

These frames of reference can be distorted; near very massive objects, time and space

do not behave as predictably they do in deep, empty space. A spinning object will drag space and time around with it, like a tornado, and this would affect those frames of reference. Thus the phenomenon is called "frame dragging".

The information is not directly useful, although some theoreticians have suggested that spinning black holes might open the way to some form of time travel.

Though the phenomenon was first predicted in 1918, it has taken nearly 70 years to be confirmed. First scientists had to demonstrate how objects massive enough to cause such a change could exist in our galaxy, then find them, and finally find evidence that backs up the theoretical prediction.

The existence of massive black holes - objects that exert such a strong gravitational pull that not even light can escape them - has been shown by a number of astronomical observations, though nobody has ever seen one directly.

The MIT team used observations from five black holes which pull in material from a neighbouring star. The material forms an "accretion disc" around the black hole, then as it falls into it, heats up and gives off X-rays.

It was these X-rays that the team measured to determine the existence of frame-dragging. Dr Wei Cui, head of the team, told the American Astronomical Society at a meeting in Colorado yesterday that predictions showed that the matter in the accretion disc should wobble - "much as a child's top wobbles when it slows down".

Dr Cui then deduced that this wobbling is evidence of frame-dragging: "the matter's orbit can only wobble if the space and time in which it exists are being dragged," he said.

Flowing carpets keep Sun warm

A 55-year-old mystery about the temperature of the Sun's corona - the outermost layer, visible during a solar eclipse - has been solved by a European Space Agency (ESA) spacecraft. The answer, it turns out, is that the Sun is covered in carpets.

They are not physical carpets. Instead, they consist of moving waves of magnetism which carry more energy than a hydroelectric plant could generate in a million years.

For years, scientists have known that the corona has a temperature of millions of degrees. Yet the visible surface of the Sun is relatively cold, at about 6,000 degrees centigrade.

Since it is physically impossible in a closed system for thermal energy to be transferred from the cool surface to the hotter one, scientists have long theorised that some form of electromagnetic activity was

causing the necessary energy movement.

The Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (Soho) spacecraft, run by ESA and the US space agency Nasa, has discovered that there are huge "carpets" consisting of loops of charged (and hence magnetic) particles flowing across the Sun's surface.

Where the carpets meet they produce "short circuits" which flow upwards into the corona and heat it to its multi-million degree temperature. Images collected by Soho show the hot gases of the corona reacting as the shifting magnetic fields on the surface move and develop.

"We found that after a typical small magnetic loop emerged, it fragments and drifts around and then disappears in only 40 hours," said Alan Title of the Stanford-Lockheed Institute for Space Research in Palo Alto, California.

— Charles Arthur

Standard

Resist the
bias, Hesel
tells civil se

551 من الامرين

19/FEATURES

THE INDEPENDENT
FRIDAY
7 NOVEMBER 1997IT
WJEP
374D
19You are (probably)
still gay if you ...JOHN
LYTTLE

Mirror, mirror: every day it gets a little harder to know if you're gay or not. Camp? Children's TV does it better than Julian Clary. Culture-defining harbingers of polymorphous perversity and gender abdication? Please: the nation has the Teletubbies. Red ribbons? Too passé. Signs and signifiers once thought fixed are going, going, gone. So don't be surprised if this last gasp list becomes either out-of-date or, indeed, wholly redundant long before you reach the end.

Aren't sure if cocktails should be drunk or told:

Own a can of nipple polish;
Laugh all the way through *Platoon*
Wonder if Donna Summer will ever have that recipe again, oh no;
Have already seen *Chicago*;
Are impatient for the dance remixes of "Candle in the Wind";

Never use wire coat hangers, ever;
Get out of the shower, wrap a towel around your head and imitate Whitney Houston in the bathroom mirror (Oh, right, sure you haven't ...);
Think nothing of:

shaving your chest, waxing your back, taking a fly-mo to your lobes, or staying in the entire weekend if you get a spot;
Know all the words to "I Am Sixteen (Going on Seventeen)";

Speak two languages: English and Gucci;
Have told the builders to install a trapdoor beside your bed;

Can discuss Uma Thurman's work in *Batman and Robin* in a rich, deep and meaningful way;

Are never tempted to jump up and touch the awning;

Spent four years painting one ceiling (see: Michelangelo);

Tell people that Clint Eastwood played Dorothy in *The Golden Girls*. Well, has anyone ever seen him and Bea Arthur in the same room?

Spell boys with a "z";
Can always find a good reason to buy yet another tight black top;

Have suggested a threesome on the first date;

Named the cats Lorna and Liza;
Know your ankles like the backs of your hands;

Own more than five items made of: leather, latex, rubber;

Remove the Mapplethorpe prints when Mum visits;

Are confused when people use Crisco for cooking;

Check out every mirror you pass;

Have women friends;

Believe your taste is impeccable, even when it's bad;

Are willing to dash all the way home just to spray some Impulse Spice behind your knees;

Have subscriptions to *Q*, *Men's Health*, *Hello!*, *Metropolitan Home*, *Variety* and *Boy Slaves*;

Read your godchildren *Jenny Lives With Eric and Martin* at bedtime;

Know that the joystick was invented by Parvo Nakacheher;

Own a "drag bag", a tasty-cum-tacky frock, some lipie, a little panstick, a push-up bra, perhaps pearls and high heels ... Just the basics for the occasional girl's night out;

Believe pork is a verb;

Are a regular sufferer of "weepee Wednesday", the tearful midweek comedown from last Saturday's drugs'n dancing extravaganza (for your information and safety, it is best not to be served by staff at certain London fashion emporiums while they are in this condition. Unless you enjoy having your purchase flung back in your face accompanied by a cry of "You look really crap in this and I haven't had my lunch break yet!");

Think *Philadelphia* was cheesy;

Bought the 1998 Take That calendar (Think about it);

Have a soft spot for Princess Margaret; Know Mrs Overall's first name;

Are the only person at the dinner table to have had their piercings removed;

Can't remember what Peter Andre's face looks like;

Have grown emotionally attached to your sex toys;

Find yourself seriously debating Dannii vs Kylie;

Don't mind grey days, as it's this season's colour;

Queued at Our Price this Monday to buy Dion and Streisand's "Tell him";

Are still in mourning for *Dynasty*;

Phew. Give that woman a decoration



Linda Barker: 'Once I start decorating it would take a bit of an earthquake or a major tantrum to shake me from my vision'

Photographs: Adrian Dennis

Linda Barker could revolutionise your sitting-room with a few sheets of MDF, a pot of lilac paint and an old tree branch. The star of the TV series 'Changing Rooms' invited Ann Treneman for a good nose around her own house in south London.

Linda Barker is not just any interior designer. She is a star of the hit BBC programme *Changing Rooms* and the author of almost a dozen books. She knows how to do amazing things with MDF and only needs a few bits of copper pipe to make a four-poster bed. She manages to make DIY look sexy and has a lot to teach a woman like myself who views putting up a shelf as a major engineering project. But I am not in the mood to learn as I stand on her doorstep in deepest SE23. I am in the mood to snoop.

I have always been a décor voyeur, but then I think most of us are. Witness those people who spend all their free time going round houses on the pretext that they may be buyers. In reality, of course, they are frantically clocking the paint effects and wondering if they too shouldn't try a dado this year. All readers of *Hello!* are décor voyeurs - the words are just wallpaper for the wallpaper, really - and so are each and every one of the six million or

so viewers of *Changing Rooms*. The programme follows two sets of neighbours as they transform a room in each other's homes, each egged on by a designer.

"The British are very nosy people," says Linda Barker. "People love to be nosy and the programme lets them into people's houses."

I nod, but my mind is really on her kitchen. It is light, airy, sunny. "Is that rag-rolled?" I ask, looking at a wall that seems to be dappled. "Frescoed," she says, explaining about how you do four coats and it's no trouble, really. A hand-painted olive branch drifts across one wall. The only sign of her five-year-old daughter, Jessica, are some chocolate fingers set out on the bleached wood island that serves as a sort of giant chopping board. I nibble on one and then another.

"Did you do this yourself?" I ask in a small voice. "Hmmm, yes, the whole house really."

At this point, I abandon all attempts at interviewing her about the book she has just written on *Changing Rooms* and ask for a tour. She complies and is obviously a bit of a pro at this. She and her husband moved to the large Victorian house in Forest Hill from a tiny flat in Battersea. It has five bedrooms, high ceilings and wide hallways. It came with the proviso that it needed modernisation. In the end, it needed a whole lot more than that - Linda spares me the details, it is clear that it was not a picnic - but now it is pretty ab-fab by any standard.

I see bits of the *Changing Rooms* everywhere - a painted gingham wall in her daughter's bedroom, a hand-blocked blind in the playroom, the Italian calligraphy flowing over her bedroom walls, the fake four-poster in the spare room. The upstairs bathroom is graffiti'd in Latin and reads: "You look like someone who knows a good thing when you see it."

We stumble upon her husband in the study looking up alternative words for "junk" in the computer's thesaurus. Linda has just published yet another book, this one called *Just Junk*, and it has been such a hit that she is doing another one in a hurry. "But we can't use the word junk again," she explains.

I nod, though I don't really understand why this is not possible. But by this time I'm beginning to understand that I understand nothing about interior design and that there is a little more to it than a fresh coat of primrose white and a trip to Habitat for some hand-tied curtains.

But I have also figured out that Linda herself is a bit of a designaholic. After our interview she is heading off to Winchester to record another television programme, called *Change That*, in which she has four hours to transform a piece of furniture. She is an art school graduate who is now 36 and having too much fun. She doesn't like to stand still or look back, particularly. The thrill is in the doing. She has just finished filming the new series of *Changing*

Rooms that will be shown in January.

"I just love the fast turnaround of design. For me it's a bit of a dream, being given a room and being told to throw £500 at it, design it, change it as much as you can. That is a joy."

She thrives on deadlines - three rooms in her own home only got done on time because they were going to be photographed for a magazine the next day - and diversity. "I mean, for

budget of £500. This requires a lot of people-skills and elbow grease and makes for compulsive viewing."

Linda insists that there are rarely any real problems, though, with prodding, she does admit to the occasional tiff.

There was the one time when the couple hated the room and said so, on camera. Then there was a bit of a controversy about a branch she'd hung on the ceiling to dangle lights through. "I

and-groove wall panelling that we'd spent ages on. The woman was very anxious about the colour and got a little bit sulky." So sulky, in fact, that she put down her paintbrush and went into a huddle with her husband, had-mouthing the colour. Of course, Linda knew that it would be fine (which it was) as soon as the fabric with the red was added to the room.

The worst is when even the crew starts to doubt her vision. Linda herself never does - except for the time she decided the shade of lilac really was too much like a bar of soap - and sticks to her original plan like stucco.

"By the time I have come round to decorating it would take a bit of an earthquake, really, or a major tantrum to shake me from my vision. So, yeah, I am very confident. Thank God, or I would be a quivering wreck."

It is at this moment that I realise *Changing Rooms* would make me a quivering wreck. The book shows 16 room make-overs and it is worrying that I feel more comfortable with some of the "before" pictures. I have visions of my nice (but sad) primrose kitchen being turned into something exciting, hot and Mexican. This is a tough game, I realise, though I can't help but take a final snoop at her lovely green hall with matt black radiators as I leave.

Linda Barker's *Changing Rooms* is published by BBC Books at £16.99.



this new series I did a Caribbean houseboat. That was fantastic. People let us into their rooms and allow us to do whatever!"

Not quite. What actually happens on *Changing Rooms* is that the neighbours tell a designer like Linda what they think the people who actually live there would like. The designer then goes away and comes up with a plan that can be achieved in two days with a

needed something dramatic up there. I'd spent all my money already so I did that," she said. In the end, she says, they came round.

Then there is the delicate matter of the couple she is working with. "They can get worried and want you to adapt colours, say, I can think of one time that I had picked a blue. It was very tasteful and we were painting it below a dado. We had done this fake tongue-

To Felicity she left turquoise shoes. To Rose, a scarf

Janet Ahlberg, magical illustrator of children's books, died in 1994, age 50, of breast cancer. Her husband/collaborator Allan Ahlberg has made a new book about her and her work. This is how he begins...

It is September, nine o'clock one morning. I have taken up her breakfast tray: porridge, maple syrup, glass of milk, plus a few other things: Tylex and Voltarol for the pain, Zantac to

protect her stomach lining from some of the other drugs, Maxolon and Kytril for sickness after chemotherapy.

The sun comes in at the window. I pull up a chair and sit beside the bed. Janet sips her milk through a straw. She looks at me, mildly - her usual gaze, then past me, over my shoulder to something on the mantelpiece. "Rose'd like that scarf," she says.

Some people, as their lives go by, acknowledge death, talk of it, let it out and look at it from time to time. Others, the majority perhaps, don't, preferring to stay mum. Jan was one of these. She had been gripped by breast cancer for almost two years. It had spread to her bones and now her liver. Well, she had read the books and BACUP pamphlets, was realis-

tic and knew the score. She had her massive fears and tiny hopes (until the very end), but nothing else. Until this day.

"Rose'd like that scarf," she said.

I knew entirely what she meant. It was her first bequest. So Jan began to deal with death. Typically, for her, she approached it first with presents. She had a small notebook, a page per person. Often the items were drawn as well as listed. There was, however, no particular system. The whole thing was simply driven by her powerful memory. She just recalled that someone once had expressed a liking for something: "Byron: Fish poster in studio", or was present when something else was bought: "Felicity: Turquoise shoes with heels and bow".



Janet dealt with death, faced it, hated it. She didn't want to leave; the party was still going on. There was a manuscript waiting, proofs in the pipeline, a plaintive cat stationed by the fridge and *Red Dwarf* on the telly. Most of all, of course, there was Jessica (nearly fifteen), her

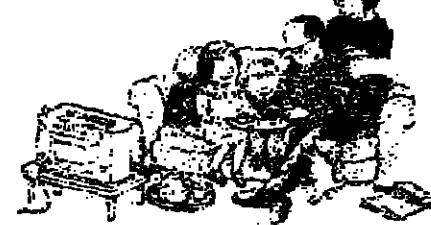
beloved daughter. The days passed. Janet's life was shrunk to a little patch, a few hours in the afternoon downstairs on the Chesterfield.

A couple of times she spoke of her own funeral. Jan was not religious. She wanted a secular ceremony and burial in the local cemetery. It was her wish that family and friends would gather together, sing a bit and speak for her. She wasn't solemn either. At one point, smiling her slight, sly smile, she said, "Tell Graham he's allowed to say 'bum'" (guaranteed with her to get a laugh).

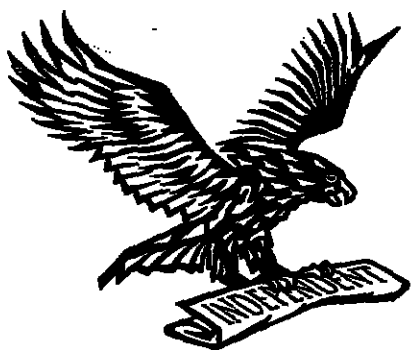
It's February now. Janet has been dead three months. In the bedroom her last-worn clothes hang over the end of the bed, her numerous shoes still clutter the floor and her perfume lingers (mainly because I spray

it around from time to time). On the mantelpiece: some talc, some rings, a foolish-looking knitted rabbit and a polystyrene head with a wig on it, bought just in case and luckily (!) not needed. There is a box of bargain jewels ... but no scarf.

'Janet's Last Book' by Allan Ahlberg, published this week by Penguin at £9.99



Brown envelopes or no, Parliament cannot police itself



EDITOR: ANDREW MARR.
DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES.
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE,
CANARY WHARF,
LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000
OR 0171 345 2000
FAX: 0171 293 2435
OR 0171 345 2435

Is it not time for Neil Hamilton to get off the stage? After all, we know what we think about him. Anyone who has taken any time at all to follow his wrongdoings knows that he does not deserve to be an MP. Indeed, the electors of Totton in Cheshire took that view and sent him for his pension on 1 May this year. As certain as British public opinion is that Louise Woodward is not guilty of premeditated murder, it is certain that Mr Hamilton is guilty of taking backhanders and lying about it.

End of story? Time to consign the bow-tied Thatcherite and his vengeful wife to the attic of parliamentary scandals, along with Jeremy Thorpe, Jack Profumo and John Stonehouse? Not quite. Sure, he is guilty, but let us be clear what he is guilty of, and get it clear according to the rules of justice, because the House of Commons has stumbled in its attempt to hold its members to new, improved ethical standards. It almost de-

fies belief that MPs could have managed to miscarry justice in the very case which forced the last government to appoint Lord Nolan in the first place.

The sleaze-busting peer himself was the model of restraint yesterday, commenting gently that his successor as the guardian of standards in public life, Sir Patrick Neill, will "no doubt" want to "look again at the procedure which the House of Commons has adopted in this case". Too right, he will. Instead of getting the miserable Mr Hamilton banged to rights, MPs have allowed him to complain - correctly - that he has been denied the right fully to challenge the evidence against him and to appeal against the findings.

This matters, not simply because Mr Hamilton, however unpopular, is entitled to a fair trial, but because the issue so dominated the early stages of the general election campaign earlier this year, and helped turn a landslide into a Labour

landslide. If Labour's electoral advantage were built on an injustice, democracy has been tarnished.

Let us rehearse the central facts. In 1994, after the "cash for questions" scandal broke, John Major asked Lord Nolan to rewrite the rules on ethical standards in public life. Sir Gordon Downey was appointed as a kind of investigating magistrate on behalf of a "court" of MPs on the Standards and Privileges Committee.

The election intervened while Sir Gordon compiled his 900-page report, and the voters were treated to the pathetic spectacle of the Prime Minister trying to force Mr Hamilton to resign and then, instead of disowning him, declaring him "innocent until proved guilty".

Mr Hamilton was unfit to be an MP on the grounds of the offences which he admitted: failing to declare a stay at the Ritz or an interest in the tobacco products he promoted, and lying to the

Deputy Prime Minister when cornered. So Mr Hamilton in particular, and the Tories in general, deserved to suffer the electoral consequences.

But on the most serious charge, that of taking thousands of pounds in brown envelopes from Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, Mr Major was right, and that remains the position today. Mr Hamilton is only guilty by association with Tim Smith, the Tory MP who admitted taking money in similar circumstances. Otherwise, it is Mr Hamilton's word against Mr Al Fayed's.

In spite of the fact that the only witnesses to the alleged transactions were Mr Al Fayed's employees, Sir Gordon found that there was "compelling evidence" that Mr Hamilton took the money. In yesterday's report, the committee of MPs contradicted the Commissioner. There "can be no absolute proof that such payments were, or were not, made". So was Mr Hamilton to receive the ben-

efit of "reasonable doubt"? No. Boldly facing both ways, the committee declared that it "did not arrive at a practicable way of reaching a judgment which adds to or subtracts from the Commissioner's findings". A masterpiece of evasion, and a conclusive, final argument for the policing of ethical standards to be taken out of the hands of MPs.

The committee was under an obligation to reach a conclusion one way or the other, if necessary by re-examining witnesses already interviewed by Sir Gordon. If they think that would be a waste of time and public money, they should acquit Mr Hamilton and draw attention to all the other misdemeanours he has admitted. If they think he took the money, then they should say so and give him the right of appeal. The defects of a system in which MPs are expected to police themselves remain fundamental. What do they want? Bring in the judges?

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

'People's opera'

Sir: Surely, if a "people's opera" means anything, it means providing world-class performances of a wide range of operas at prices that do not exclude anyone from attending. You don't create such a thing by more than halving the number of performances by the two main opera companies in London ("The death of the Royal Opera House", 4 November).

There are legitimate criticisms of the management of the Royal Opera House but the quality of the work produced there is genuinely world class. The companies deserve to be judged on the quality of their work, not simply on the quality of their management. Furthermore, despite popular misconceptions, at every performance of the Royal Opera there are a significant number of tickets available at £7 or less. I know, because I buy them. High prices in other parts of the House are entirely a result of the low level of public subsidy received by the company.

How will English National Opera continue to be as accessible as it is, in a theatre that has a third fewer seats? Either prices will go up or the range of the work it does will diminish. Without increased subsidy to all the companies, prices will remain high.

By effectively making these companies homeless, the talent brought together in all three companies will drift away to companies and countries that take the arts seriously. An operatic heritage of over 50 years will be destroyed and we will all be the poorer for it.

DAVID CLOKE
London SE4

Sir: One point has yet to be made with regard to Chris Smith's suggestion to make Covent Garden a "receiving house" for three major companies. Such a plan would make the Royal Ballet's position insupportable.

It has always suffered from having to share the house with an opera company, thus having to restrict the number of its performances and being too often (for instance) unable to give aspirant dancers the opportunity to dance major roles in London. The company's need for its own dance house in London has for many years



Louise Woodward

Sir: If Judge Hillier Zobel reduces the verdict on Louise Woodward to manslaughter (report, 6 November) he will have determined that the jury were wrong to bring in a murder verdict and that it cannot be allowed to stand.

But if the verdict of murder falls it means that Louise is not guilty of the crime she was charged with. If she is not guilty of the crime she was charged with, she should go free.

If the only way of repairing a wrong verdict is to replace it with one for an offence which was not put to the jury, why not find her guilty of jaywalking instead?

KEVIN McGRATH
Harlow, Essex

Sir: Stephen Jakobi (Letters, 4 November) regrets the "loose or noose" option chosen by Louise Woodward. But if the juror Stephen Colwell is telling the truth, then Louise was not convicted because she chose "loose or noose", but because the jury culpably denied her that option.

Colwell says (report, 4 November) that if other charges had been available "then potentially manslaughter may have been the verdict" implying a reasonable doubt of murder, which should have led to acquittal. He says, "There's no way we could... say 'We think she did it, but we're going to let her go'", implying a prejudice in favour of conviction, regardless of the charge.

Whether Louise's option was a proper one or not, the jury never gave it to her. Instead they allowed themselves the most impermissible option of all. They tried Louise Woodward for manslaughter and then convicted her of murder. JOHN HEAWOOD
York

Sir: Referring to Judge Hillier Zobel's "controversial" article in *American Heritage* magazine, David Osborne suggests (4 November) that Zobel believes that the jury system is flawed. In fact his article was an endorsement of the jury system. Zobel wrote, "Perhaps the jury, to paraphrase what Churchill once said of democracy, is the worst mechanism for trying cases, except for any alternative". RICHARD GIORDANO
Providence, Rhode Island

been urgent; should Mr Smith's plan be adopted, it will be imperative.

DEREK PARKER
London W14

Foxhunting

Sir: Henry Best's argument (Letters, 6 November) essentially boils down to: "we shouldn't ban foxhunting because we cannot ban everything that is cruel or distasteful". But what is wrong with starting somewhere? Granted, people should be allowed certain freedoms - but the nature of living in a democratic society is having to conform to what is good for the majority as well as the individual.

In addition, it surprises me that foxhunting is not classed as "deliberately cruel" but boxing (a sport involving two paid consenting adults) is.

Perhaps many people do choose not to become vegans.

Maybe the same people do not research thoroughly all the ethical intentions of the companies they purchase products from. This does not mean that they have no right to express an opinion on a matter which emotionally affects them at the time. This is not hypocritical - this is human. SHARON OTTO
Egham, Surrey

Sir: Concern about foxhunting smacks not only of hypocrisy but also of almost total ignorance of nature's unpleasant realities and a compulsion to see animals only through the eyes of Beatrix Potter.

Wild animals die alone and usually in fear and pain in the jaws or claws of a predator. If, like the fox, they have no natural predators then untreated disease or injury is the usual natural cause of death with dehydration providing the final agony.

Inconvenient though it may be for the campaign against foxhunting, animal suffering is a much greater evil than animal death. If conducted properly, foxhunting and the other blood sports are capable of delivering quicker and more humane deaths to their quarry than they would otherwise suffer in the wild.

If foxhunting is banned, no-one should imagine that the lot of the fox will have been improved. But then, one suspects that that is hardly the point. STEPHEN MULLINER
Hastern, Surrey

Sir: Foxhunting consists of nothing more wicked than the use, under controlled conditions, of the fox's natural predator to maintain a natural balance. The aspect that seems to cause squeamish town dwellers so much anguish, the fact that once killed the fox is torn to pieces and eaten by the

pack, is in principle no different to what happens around 90 per cent of dinner tables up and down the land every Sunday, at about midday.

Is it possible that the two sins of the hunting, shooting and fishing brigade are: conveying the mistaken impression that they are all "toffs"; and tearing away the comforting veils of abattoir, supermarket and clingfilm and giving town folk an uncomfortable glimpse of what *homo sapiens* really is - the most ruthlessly successful of all the predatory omnivores. J A DAVIS
Bookham, Surrey

Sir: Is it not the case that the argument over foxhunting has gone far beyond the issue of animal welfare? A passion to win has been ignited; the opposing view must be defeated, no matter what. I suspect that if irrefutable evidence came to light proving that the fox suf-

fered no more than any other wild animal in the natural world, Mike Foster MP and his fans would choose to ignore the evidence. The scent of victory is in their nostrils and lynch-mob mentality has taken over from reason.

In such circumstances, rational argument gives way to guerrilla tactics. Millions of pounds are spent by both sides in a struggle for supremacy. The cause does not warrant this. TONY RUSSELL
Stratton Audley, Oxfordshire

Test for CJD

Sir: "The only test that exists for BSE and CJD involves examining the brain tissue from victims" writes Kate Watson-Smith ("Scientists takes step forward in battle against BSE", 6 November). Not so. A distinguished British virologist with an international reputation for the work he has been doing

since 1970, both here and in the United States, on the "Scrapie agent" first offered the Ministry of Agriculture a urine test for BSE as long ago as 1993 and many times since. His offers have mysteriously always been refused.

At the request of relatives he has carried out his test on 15 humans who were suffering from possible CJD and in all 15 he found the test to be positive. Subsequent post-mortems confirmed that all 15 did have CJD. Had this urine test been carried out on cattle it could have identified the infected animals, thus restricting the cull and avoiding three farmers' suicides, together with the loss to the UK of an estimated £4bn.

Why are we getting excited about a possible blood test which Zurich scientists may eventually elaborate when there is a urine test available already? H C GRANT
London NW3

'A Dance to the Music of Time' part two: 'Anyone here know Widmerpool?'



MILES KINGSTON

Yesterday I brought you the first half of a condensed version of *A Dance to the Music of Time*. It wasn't meant to be the first half - it was meant to be the whole thing - but as anyone who has ever tried to condense *A Dance to the Music of Time* will testify (which, I suppose, means just me and Hugh Whitmore) it does tend to go on a bit. Anyway, on with the second half!

Story so far: lots of old friends keep bumping into each other and asking if they know Widmerpool. They generally do, but don't like him. Meanwhile, everyone is getting older.

Early morning. The scene is a bombed street in London. A man in a black tie, holding a bottle of champagne and two glasses, wanders up.

Man: God Gad. Where has my house gone?

Policeman: This your pile of bricks, sir?

Man: Yes. I only popped out for an all-

night party and popped back again at first light, and - my house has gone!

Policeman: Did you take your wife with you, sir, or is she... in there somewhere?

Man: Did I take my wife? I don't know. What does she look like?

Policeman: Well, if she's in there somewhere, I'd hate to say what she looks like.

Man: Do you know Ken Widmerpool?

Policeman: No, sir.

Man: Nor do I. I think we must be in the wrong place.

Cut to large rambling house. There is a sign outside: "This house was used in the filming of 'A Dance to the Music of Time'. £2.50 entry Wednesdays and Fridays." The sign is hastily removed. Nick Jenkins, in demob suit, comes to the gate. His wife comes running up the drive.

Nick: Hello, darling. I'm back.

Isabel: Hello, darling. What sort of war did you have?

Nick: I didn't like it much. People kept asking me if I knew Widmerpool. And I had the wrong tie on in one scene.

Isabel: Were you court-martialled?

Nick: No, but millions of viewers wrote in to complain. What sort of war did you have?

Isabel: Perfectly bloody. Daylight was rationed, you know. But I've had three children in the past three years.

Nick: That's awfully clever considering I haven't been here in the past three years.

Isabel: Oh, medicine can do so much to help these days, darling.

A figure steps out of the underground.

Oh, look - it's Uncle Giles!

Giles: Hello, you two.

Nick: Giles! I thought you were dead!

Giles: Am I? He consults the script. Oh, yes, - so I am. He dies.

Cut to a West End art gallery. Everyone is there.

Woman: Do you know that dreadful man Widmerpool?

Pamela: I should do. I am married to him.

Woman: Oh, my dear, I am so sorry!

Pamela: Not half as sorry as I am. Do you know that painting by Poussin called *Dance to the Music of Time*?

Woman: Poussin? That's French for chicken, isn't it? Can you imagine a British painter called Chicken?

Pamela: Well, we have painters called Constable and Sargent, and nobody thinks it's odd...

Widmerpool (banging a table with his fist): Could we have silence just for a moment? Thank you all for coming...

Nick Jenkins arrives, out of breath.

Nick: Have I missed anything?

Woman: Hello, Nick.

Nick: I am sorry, I don't think...

Woman: It's Jean. We had an affair in the first episode.

Nick: Did we? I've got that episode on video but I haven't had a chance to watch it yet.

Widmerpool: ... and in conclusion may I say that I shall shortly be going bonkers and running off with a charismatic young man called Scorp?

Sir Magnus: Why?

Widmerpool: It's short for Scorpion, I believe.

Sir Magnus: No - why are you going bonkers and running off with this young man?

Widmerpool: Well, I'm not sure, but I think it's because Anthony Powell can't think of an ending.

Nick: And doesn't know anything about the Sixties.

Enter Bob Duport, Odo Stevens, Nicolas Poussin, and everyone who is not there so far.

Poussin: Excusez moi, mais connaissez vous Widmerpool?

Her Ma
Opposit



DOUGLAS
MACDONALD

Trade an

PAUL VALLEY
ETHICAL
TRADING

21/COMMENT

THE INDEPENDENT
FRIDAY
7 NOVEMBER 1997

Her Majesty's official Opposition is - where?



DONALD
MACINTYRE
THE TORIES
AND EUROPE

In the House of Commons on Wednesday there were 12 questions asked of Tony Blair by Conservative MPs, five of them by the Leader of the Opposition. Every one was on Europe, and 11 of them on the perceived iniquities of the Social Chapter. This was no doubt regarded by the Tory whips' office as a triumph of the leaden orchestration that now regularly takes place in both the main parties on these occasions. Except that on that very day a clear embarrassment for the Government, perhaps the clearest since the election, had come to light: the decision, despite ministerial promises to the contrary, not to apply the ban on tobacco advertising to Formula One racing.

It seemed, on the face of it, a classic case both of promising what you couldn't deliver, and ducking a hard choice. It directly involved the Prime Minister, who had been personally lobbied by the motor-racing industry. Was it really such a triumph to ensure that not one solitary Opposition MP even tried to make him squirm on the issue?

To make it worse, nothing had happened to justify this sudden obsessive interest in the Social Chapter. Or, to put it more precisely, nothing had happened outside the Conservative Party. The Europhiles in the party who know better, and who regard the Amsterdam summit as having had an important but reasonably positive outcome, have agreed to vote against the Amsterdam Treaty bill in the Commons next week. So the leadership is now seeking to demonstrate, at the expense of serious opposition to the Government, that it is back in charge of its own party. But surrender of the party's pro-Europeans on Amsterdam is tactical - and temporary. It was agreed this week by the Positive European Group of MPs, including Ken Clarke, on the grounds that it is better to save their fire for the more important battle: EMU. When that moment comes most of them, and certainly Clarke and Michael Heseltine, will vote with the Government rather than their own party.

The pro-Europeans' tactic is understandable. But it doesn't alter the symbolic importance of next week's three-line whip for the Tory leadership, and the large majority of Tory backbenchers who support it. Opposition to the treaty, if it is to be taken seriously, implies that a future Tory government would seek to alter its terms. Which happens to be in line with the long-held attachment of Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, to the idea of seeking to "renegotiate" Britain's membership of the EU in a way that would repatriate some powers from Brussels. In his speech at the Tory conference, Howard explicitly said: "We will not be afraid to look again at the powers exercised by Brussels." What does this mean in practice? Allies of Howard have argued, rather optimistically, that the UK would have the clout to negotiate new terms if there were a change of government. But

some of them have not, in private, shrunk from the implication that it might have to be pursued under threat of withdrawal. If that threat is to mean anything, as Norman Lamont said in a ground-breaking speech two years ago, the threat might, under certain circumstances, have to be carried out.

Hague himself hasn't fully declared his hand on this. He hasn't himself yet said he would go into the next election demanding renegotiation of Amsterdam under threat of withdrawal. Some would say opposition to the treaty anyway implies that; in any case it is a mark-time treaty (at worst) that preserved intact the objectives of the previous government: border controls and the right of member states to make their own foreign policy. Opposition to it suggests a new depth of hostility to the EU as it has existed since John Major reached his deal at Maastricht.

And here there are two fundamental problems. The first is the sort of target Blair is in relation to Europe, as opposed to what the Tories will vainly try to represent him as being. If you listen to Robin Cook giving evidence to the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee, as he did this week, saying that Amsterdam represents an "improvement" on the integrationist designs of Maastricht; or, if you read Gordon Brown's submission to last month's ECOFIN, with its emphasis on labour market flexibility, Europe-wide competitiveness and the need for small and medium-sized businesses to prosper, it becomes harder to depict the British government as selling out to obsolete and integrationist EU corporatism. Indeed his hard-nosed approach to excessive labour market regulation - including reduced working hours - has already irritated the French government. The last time Jacques Chirac met Blair before yesterday was at a lunch in Strasbourg last month. The French President remarked to the company: "Tony est un socialiste moderne. Il est cinq kilomètres à droite de moi." (There are unconfirmed rumours that Blair replied: "Oui Jacques - et j'en suis fier" - Yes, and I'm proud of it.) On most EU issues, Blair is closer to mid-Eighties Thatcher than to the Europhilic caricature his opponents seek to conjure.

The other, related problem is public opinion. Even if you were to grant the Tory leadership their improbable claim that they could win an EMU referendum against a formidable cross party coalition of the biggest figures in British politics, that certainly doesn't apply to EU membership itself. Not only have the alleged defects of Amsterdam had zero impact on public opinion, but MORI's Bob Worcester points out in this week's *New Statesman* that the trend is quite opposite to what the sceptics want: there is even, amazingly, a swing towards a federal Europe - with 34 per cent in support compared with 17 per cent three years ago.

Most discussion of Hague's difficulties has concentrated on the split. But this may not be the primary problem, any more than unity is the solution. It may be that by pursuing the wrong policy the party risks disconnecting itself from the electorate. The closest parallel in Tory history is surely tariff reform. For much of the first quarter of the century the leadership promoted a policy that was almost universally popular inside the party, and utterly rejected by the electorate. Indeed, after the 1906 election the tariff reformers captured the party as the sceptics have captured today's Tory party. Yet when in 1923 Baldwin offered an unconditional promise of tariff reform, he lost the election. As the historian Robert Blake has written of the early century Tories: "Tariff reform remained an article of faith in the party ... in spite of its obvious unpopularity with the public. ... Seldom has a party persisted so long in such an unpromising cause." Sound familiar?



Gimme 5! In-depth Kirsty Wark on 'Newsnight' (left) and the more informal, and increasingly popular, Kirsty Young on Channel 5

Kirsty or Kirsty, you can choose



SUZANNE
MOORE
THE NEW
DEFINITION
OF NEWS

Do you really want to know what is going on in the world? Can you really be bothered? Isn't there too much news already? The proposed revamping of Channel 4 news brought on, or so it has been said, by the success of Channel 5 news, once again begs the question of what makes good news. There is a move right across the media towards making the news more fun, more sexy, more entertaining, as though there is an implicit understanding that news on its own is just too straight, too dull and too boring to attract those peculiar minorities, women and young people.

If the news agenda is being shifted towards this new market then the news itself will have to change. Sure things will still happen, but there is a re-ordering of priorities about what is important. This newspaper is part of that change. Yet such changes do not come easy to news organisations in which the traditional ways of dividing up the news are firmly in place.

Print journalism has become far more "magaziney", more

feature- and commentary-led on the basis that most people get their news from radio and television. The idea is that people have already received the primary information about what is going on, and instead of needing more repetition of facts, they instead need a way of understanding, of processing all this information.

Increasingly, however, there are worries about the presentation. Channel 4's in-depth coverage, centred on sexy but serious Jon Snow, is to be tarted up. Channel 5 news, with its more informal approach pioneered by Kirsty Young, is seen as a direct challenge to the old way of doing things - big brains behind big desks combined with reports that have been prepared earlier.

Kirsty perches on desks in her natty trouser suits and chairs her way through the stories of the day. Fans say it's fresh, critics say it's lightweight with far too many consumer stories. Anyway, aren't we in danger of replicating the American obsession with anchor men/women when what becomes important is the person reading the news rather than the news itself? Cosy Trevor Macdonald versus edgy Jeremy Paxman. Deeply concerned Michael Buerk versus trendy biker Jon Snow. Shallow Kirsty Young versus in-depth Wark. You choose your news according to their view of who gives it you. This is a superficial way of looking at it: style becomes more important than content and therefore content inevitably suffers. This is the ongoing Americanisation or tabloidisation of all media that produces cheap and tacky infotainment. This is the supposed dumbing down that gets everyone so excited.

Those currently complaining about British children watching cartoons like *The Simpsons* and

Rugrats have obviously never sat down and watched these programmes, which are actually biting social commentaries, far less dumb than much home-grown product aimed at kids.

Questioning what news values are appropriate for the Nineties seems to me a good move and not one that automatically leads to a less intelligent approach. What appears to be happening is a move away from the assumed dominance of Westminster. *Newsnight* has a new Friday night format which tries to be more cuddly, mainly by asserting itself - as Paxman sneered - a "politician-free zone". The reverence that some have for the *Today* programme, which so much of the time consists of a small club of politicians and journalists talking to each other, is also now due for a shake-up.

If people are bored to tears by politicians then partly this is the result of political news management. Spinning, image consultancy, media training has not made politicians more endearing to the public, it has helped make them duller than ever. All spontaneity, honesty and humanity appears airbrushed out of them. We know what they are going to say, so why should we waste our time on those who have been taught how not to answer questions? Why should it be the job of news organisations to make these people seem more interesting than they actually are?

There is also some groping towards the notion that extra-parliamentary politics are important.

The grip of Westminster on the public imagination is less tight for a whole number of reasons. There is a sense of the limited power of elected politicians, as well as the knowledge that it is now possible to live in

a political culture that has nothing to do with political parties.

The media has been slow to cotton on to the new movements, from road protesters to sophisticated consumer boycotts, because its machinery is not able to fit these vague groupings into the established categories. The lines between hard news and soft news have fallen away. The divisions between social affairs, home news, features and human interest stories are less easy to define.

The old confidence about what is significant in the world, which many would describe as arrogance, has ebbed away. The paternalistic attitude that was once sure that the news would be good for us, educate us, even if we had to struggle through it, has gone. Some would argue that the biggest losers in all of this have been the foreign and investigative reporters whose work is considered far too expensive. Who cares about what's going on in Algeria when you can have an older Spice Girls story? These heroes of the news industry remain sacrosanct. They are in-trepid and therefore must never be criticised. Why not? Perhaps all news has to be presented differently.

It's far too lazy simply to blame the tabloids for all these changes. Tabloids may sell themselves primarily as enter-

tainment, and are bought on that basis, but it was their investigations of the Royal Family that in their own way brought the monarchy into crisis. The investigative teams of the broadsheets did not do this, or even try.

The success of Channel 5 news also points to a more localised news media. This, in fact, is the situation in America, where much news is multi-local rather than national - let alone international. Consumer stories, human interest stories, quirky stories, do attract audiences. The big stories lately, whether Diana or Louise Woodward, are undoubtedly human interest stories and no less important for that.

The change in both style and content of the news is itself a consumer story - it is consumer driven. Someone has to read or listen to all this damn stuff or there is no point in doing it. The world view of the middle-aged, middle-class male is being challenged by those who do not want to be patronised or told what is really meaningful. We can make our own minds up. In many ways we already have. All that is happening is that those who imagine that they are entrusted to organise the world are now struggling to catch up with the way the world chooses to organise itself. Why is that such bad news?

Digest the news



The Week is a concise, witty and well-informed digest which distils the best of the British & foreign press into just 40 pages - tailor-made for busy people. It is the simplest and most effortless way to stay in touch.

The Week is available in all good newsagents. Alternatively you can take out a subscription today with no risk, thanks to our 12 week full money back guarantee. Just call *The Week* on 01454 620070.

All you need to know about everything that matters

Trade and aid can mix, and it's not all beards and sandals



PAUL
VALLELY
ETHICAL
TRADING

I have an interest to declare here but let me come to that in a moment. To most people one of the most unexpected aspects of this week's White Paper on overseas development is its emphasis on "ethical trading". Time was when ethical trading meant African handicrafts on sale at the back of the church hall or undrinkable coffee at Nicaraguan Solidarity stalls (whatever happened to them?). So how has it come from a hobby for the beard-and-sandals brigade to being a big

plank in government policy in less than a decade?

The very idea of ethical trading would not long ago have been regarded in Labour Party circles as an oxymoron. I might have thought so, too, until I went to Ethiopia during the 1984 famine. That brought home to me the limitations of the approach to aid that was then current. Emergency food did the job of keeping people alive. But so many of the development projects that were supposed to prevent future emergencies were based on a paradigm which ended with grandiose modernisation projects, abandoned and overgrown in the African bush.

Over the next decade I reported from 30 Third World countries and was increasingly struck by the extent to which all suffered from the same problems. Two things became clear. First, that if development projects were to work they had to be rooted in the priorities and perceptions of the local people, not those of experts from abroad. Second, that all projects would be fruitless unless some of the underlying structural problems were dealt with in the

international trading system; the West had erected an edifice of tariff and taxes to discourage Third World countries from developing their own industry and instead continuing simply to provide the industrialised world with raw materials. The system that went under the name of free trade was far from free at all, and certainly not fair.

And now for my declaration of interest. When my decade of overseas travelling came to an end I became involved with Traidcraft, a plc which buys and sells Third World products but which pays a fair price to the people who make them. Its sister company, Traidcraft Exchange, of which I now chair the board, runs a business advisory service to provide basic business skills to those producers and gives marketing information on what will sell in the UK.

It was not terribly fashionable when I joined. The pure of heart preferred charitable-giving untainted by the murky marketplace. The politically minded saw it as a kind of Trojan horse for Thatcherism. "You're just a social market man," I was once told by

Labour's last development minister, Judith Hart.

But business was vital - and not just because self-sufficiency and work lies at the core of human dignity. As Clare Short's white paper acknowledges, private capital flows have now come to dwarf official flows as a source of money into the Third World. More than that, the man and woman in the high street had ceased to be citizens and become consumers. The challenge was to harness that and ensure that every £1 spent was an economic vote cast in the direction of the poor.

That meant a wider canvas than Traidcraft's mail order system and its 2,000 voluntary reps could afford. Abroad Traidcraft Exchange spawned indigenous partner organisations in South Africa, Tanzania, the Philippines, India, Zambia and Bangladesh. At home it established a partnership with three other "alternative trading" groups - Oxfam Trading, Equal Exchange, Twin Trading - to create a new, fairly traded, high-quality coffee named *Cafédirect* and persuade supermarkets that there is a market for ethics, just as there was

for environmentally friendly goods.

It has been a marked success. Other fairly traded goods - including tea and chocolate - are now widely available in supermarkets branded with the mark of the Fairtrade Foundation which Traidcraft set up in coalition with Cafod, Christian Aid, New Consumer, Oxfam, the World Development and, perhaps most surprisingly, the Women's Institute.

But introducing new brands cannot be a comprehensive answer. Existing companies had to be influenced towards more ethical business practices. Aid agencies began pressing large manufacturers and retailers to endorse codes of conduct. Christian Aid rated supermarkets in order of Third World friendliness (Tesco came top) and ran exposés of the sweat-labour behind Nike shoes and child labourers who make Premier League footballs. Cafod did the same with fashion footwear from Brazil.

From there ethical trading moved up another gear. For the past six years Traidcraft has been pioneering a system called social accounting. Using mech-

anisms parallel to those in financial auditing it monitors the impact a firm has on its suppliers, customers, staff (and their families), the local community and the environment. The system has been taken up by Allied Dunbar, BT and the Irish government. The Co-op Bank and the Body shop have adopted their own versions. Traidcraft's social accounting specialist has most recently been approached by Shell with whom it is in discussions on how it might report its activities in a more open and transparent way. And Clare Short is pledged to investigate how her own department might be subjected to a social audit.

Social auditing is, of course, like codes of conduct, a voluntary mechanism. But it is proving such an effective tool of management information that many companies are considering it who do not feel the need to adopt it as a mere PR measure. The challenge now is to spread that further. Globalisation has brought new problems for developing countries. But it has also brought a new lever with which to press for a better deal for the world's poor.

Bank shocks City with surprise interest rate rise

The increase in interest rates announced by the Bank of England yesterday took the financial markets by surprise. And, as Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, discovered, City experts could not agree on how much further the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee would go.

The quarter-point rise in interest rates to 7.25 per cent sent the pound up and the money markets sharply lower yesterday. Many traders had persuaded themselves that the recent stockmarket turbulence would delay the next rate move, and they were therefore caught on the hop by the Monetary Policy Committee's decision.

In the aftermath of the midday announcement the pound jumped by a penny to just under DM2.91, while its index climbed by 0.9 to 103.3. The sterling futures market fell sharply, betting on rates being another half point higher by next June.

Many City economists expressed either surprise or disappointment at yesterday's move. "I'm surprised the Bank has chosen to ignore the strength of the pound and the turbulence in financial markets," said Simon Briscoe at Nikko Europe.

The publication of the Bank's Quarterly Inflation Report next week was seen as the likeliest explanation for the timing. Following yesterday's move the report will be able to show inflation meeting its target rather than overshooting it.

However, the experts were sharply divided on how much higher rates will need to be raised to meet the 2.5 per cent target.

Roger Bootle, chief economist at HSBC Markets, predicted at most one more quarter point step in the first quarter of next year. "The markets have overreacted," he said.

On the other hand, Steven Bell, head of research at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "The MPC must have it in mind to do more. The labour market indicators are all flashing red." He said rates could climb to 8 per cent next year.

The Bank's statement indicated that skill shortages in the jobs market and unsustainable growth in GDP had tipped the balance. It admitted growth would slow next year but said the balance of risks was such that the Committee had judged a modest rate rise necessary.

Behind the uncertainty about future rate rises lie diverging assessments of the current strength of the economy. Two leading forecasting groups joined business organisations yesterday in saying that the Bank's move was unnecessary.

In its latest report the London Business School's Centre for Economic Forecasting said the economy is heading for a "soft landing". But Andrew Sentance, its director, said that although the risk of recession was still "remote", the Bank had made a slowdown in 1998 more likely.

"The Bank of England has chosen to take out an insurance policy against potential inflation risks in the pipeline," he said.

The new forecast forces inflation hitting a peak of 3 per cent in 1999, well within the Government's 1.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent target range, without any further rate rises.

Separately, Garry Young of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research agreed that policy was already tight enough for the inflation target to be met. The rise "increases the chance of a recession next year," he warned.

This warning was echoed by some business groups. Ian Peters, deputy director general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "In our view recent surveys do not provide sufficient evidence for a further rise at this time."

"With UK interest rates the highest of G7 countries, this will further constrain Britain's international competitiveness," he added.

However, mortgage lenders reacted calmly, with most announcing that they would not make any decisions about mortgage rates immediately. The two biggest mutual lenders, the Nationwide and Bradford & Bingley, made a widespread move unlikely by saying they would hold their rates until the end of December and end of January respectively.



Eddie George Following yesterday's move the Governor will be able to show inflation meeting its target in the Bank's Quarterly Inflation Report next week

Nor did the lenders think the latest rate rise would harm the housing market. "As long as base rates do not go a lot higher, there will be no impact. The housing market recovery is solidly based," said Gary Marsh of the Halifax.

Some economists reckon the pace of growth is still so rapid that the Bank will eventually have to stamp harder on the brakes. Most pointed to the mounting evidence of skill shortages and pay pressures in the jobs market as the biggest concern. David Walton at Goldman Sachs said one

more increase would get the economy back to its trend. "But that is the minimum that is needed to keep inflation on target," he said. The risk was that rates would need to be raised even further.

And Kevin Gardiner of Morgan Stanley said: "The Bank has given its credibility a real boost."

But with even the most pessimistic analysts foresee interest rates rising no higher than 8 per cent, this would be the lowest peak during a business cycle for a generation.

Outlook, page 23

High street fared better in October but car sales suffered slowdown

Retail sales picked up in October, according to figures released yesterday which helped vindicate the Bank's decision to lift rates. But the booming car market slowed down after its strong performance over the summer. Michael Harrison and Diane Coyle examine the latest figures.

The Confederation of British Industry reported that sales volumes reached their strongest level for a year in October after having been held back the previous month by the "Diana factor".

According to the organisation's latest distributive trades survey the level of activity on the high street last month was well above average for the time of year with sales increasing at their quickest rate since November, 1996.

The CBI said the underlying trend suggested that a slowdown in sales growth since midsummer has levelled off. Retailers also became more optimistic about sales prospects for the next few months, with the volume of business in October surpassing their expectations.

Alastair Eperon, chairman of the CBI's survey panel, said: "This survey paints a more promising picture for retailers, as overall sales volumes in October increased at their fastest rate for almost a year."

The balance of retailers reporting an increase rather than a decrease in sales was 38 per cent compared with 26 per cent in September.

All retail sectors apart from footwear and leather reported October sales higher than a year earlier. Sales of both furniture and carpets and clothing rebounded strongly after a dismal September. Off-licences, booksellers and chemists also had a much better month.

"Overall the survey indicates a bounce back in spending in October, but not at a rate that will allow retailers to push up prices," concluded Geoffrey Dicks, an economist at NatWest Markets.

Michael Saunders of Salomon Brothers said the evidence that consumer spending had not yet slowed to a sus-

tainable pace supported the case for a base rates rise. Simon Briscoe of Nikko Europe said that despite the modest nature of the pick-up the markets were likely to remain nervous about future trends, particularly the threat of a spending boom over the Christmas period.

Christmas shopping lifts consumer spending in November and December and this year many analysts are predicting that High Street sales could be stronger than ever. They said that was particularly because of a boost from the windfall gains made by millions of people from the stockmarket flotations that followed the conversion of several leading building societies into banks earlier this year. Analysts also said that retail sales were being buoyed by increases in incomes.

New car sales figures for October were more muted showing a rise of only 1.3 per cent to 156,706 on the same month last year. The increase compares with record sales in August and September and an overall rise of 6.7 per cent in the new car market in the first 10 months of the year.

"These figures are clear evidence of a slowdown in the car market following the pattern of other retail sectors," said Ernie Thompson, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

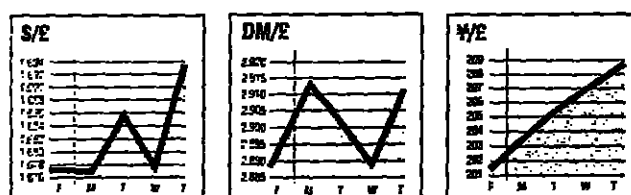
Alan Pulham, director of the Retail Motor Industry Federations, dealers association, said: "It is clear that demand is slowing in line with the general economy but the figures are still a cause for gratification."

Imports took 68 per cent of the market while the share of sales accounted for by private motorists as opposed to fleet buyers was 44 per cent.

Ford remained the market leader although its share slipped to 16.7 per cent with Vauxhall taking 14.7 per cent of sales and Rover just under 10 per cent.

The CBI's survey followed a report earlier in the week showing an increase in business activity in all the service industries. The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply said there were signs of skill shortages and rising pay.

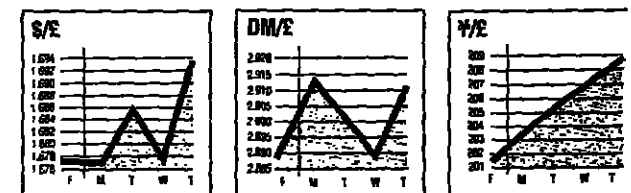
STOCK MARKETS



Indices

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	4863.80	-44.50	-0.91	5367.30	3882.70	3.59
FTSE 250	4680.40	-6.40	-0.14	4963.80	4321.80	3.45
FTSE 350	2353.50	-18.00	-0.76	2570.50	1935.70	3.56
FTSE All Share	2305.55	-18.55	-0.71	2507.68	1825.79	3.53
FTSE SmallCap	2322.8	-2.40	-0.10	2407.40	2127.50	3.21
FTSE PlacidCap	1274.0	1.10	0.09	1345.50	1195.70	3.34
FTSE AIM	995.8	0.70	0.07	1135.00	955.50	1.01
Dow Jones	7651.67	-38.11	-0.50	8298.00	6241.69	1.76
Nikkei	16332.87	35.82	0.22	21480.57	16082.32	0.93
Hang Seng	10412.56	-269.19	-2.59	16820.31	8775.88	4.00
Dax	3823.91	-42.77	-1.11	4458.88	2874.78	2.06

INTEREST RATES



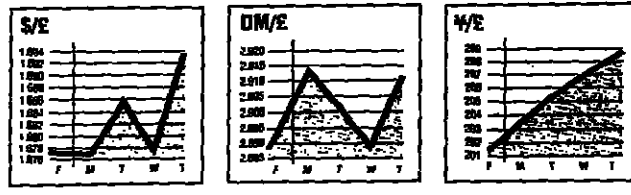
Money Market Rates

Index	3 month	1 yr	5 yr	10 yr	1 yr	5 yr	10 yr
UK	7.44	7.13	6.58	6.54	-1.17	-0.55	-0.37
US	6.78	6.98	6.97	6.93	-0.36	0.74	-0.37
Japan	0.52	0.02	0.56	-0.08	1.81	-0.79	2.58
Germany	3.71	0.92	4.11	0.78	5.84	-0.27	6.25

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (a)	Chg (b)	% Chge	Falls	Price (a)	Chg (b)	% Chge
Cell Telecom	561.50	24.50	4.56	RJB Mining	185.00	-15.00	-8.3
Shillon	183.00	7.50	4.27	Danka Bus Sys	544.00	-32.00	-5.5
Pidington	136.50	5.50	4.20	Burnham Castro	1042.00	-53.00	-5.1
Orange	233.00	5.00	4.17	BOC Group	1009	-51	-4.3

CURRENCIES



Pound

Index	Close	Change	Yr Ago	Dollar	Close	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.8937	+1.57c	1.8487	Startling	0.9304	-0.55c	0.9305
D-Mark	2.9117	+1.89ct	2.8944	D-Mark	1.7197	-0.38ct	1.5130
Yen	208.76	+0.27	184.85	Yen	123.26	+0.38	112.13
E Index	102.40	-0.50	91.10	E Index	104.70	+0.20	96.20

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Change	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Change	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	18.68	0.17	21.25	GDP	114.00	3.90	109.7
Gold (\$)	312.35	-1.20	379.15	RPI	159.30	3.6	153.76
Silver (\$)	4.85	0.00	4.74	Base Rates	7.25	6.00	Nov

www.bloomberg.com

source: Bloomberg

Doubts on Vickers Ernst partner quits after Revenue inquiry

Mayflower, the automotive engineering group contemplating a £1bn break-up bid for Vickers, the tanks to Rolls Royce cars group, yesterday began wooing support from City institutions. But, as Michael Harrison and Chris Godsmark report, doubts are growing about Mayflower's ability to finance an offer on its own.

John Simpson, chief executive of Mayflower, embarked on an intensive round of meetings with the group's main shareholders in search of backing for a bid which would nearly triple its size and leave it with potentially heavy borrowings.

Five institutions hold about 30 per cent of Mayflower's shares and their support will be crucial if a bid is to be launched. Mayflower, advised by BZW, is said to have been sizing Vickers up for two years and to have begun making serious bid preparations in the late summer.

Mayflower's biggest shareholders are Mercury Asset management with just under 10 per cent and Hill Samuel and Flemings Investment Management, each with about 7 per cent. Schroders could have a pivotal role to play as it holds 4 per cent of Mayflower and 20 per cent of Vickers.

Meanwhile, there were indications that Vickers, which is advised by Lazards, could mount a bid defence involving a cash hand-out to shareholders from the £500m it hopes to raise by selling Rolls-Royce, a plan which was announced last week.

Clive Forrester-Walker of the brokers Charterhouse Tilney, cast doubt on whether Mayflower had the firepower to

proceed without a partner. "It is a close run thing but I think they would need a bigger brother to do it," he said.

One potential partner is BMW, the German car maker which already owns Rover. City sources said yesterday that it was unlikely Mayflower would have made any move without consulting with BMW since it was an important supplier to Rover, and because BMW was supplying the engine for the new 12-cylinder Rolls Royce. BMW also has a joint venture with the Rolls-Royce aero engine company which owns the rights to the Rolls Royce name used by Vickers.

Mr Forrester-Walker, who puts the break-up value of Vickers at £920m, also questions whether the Rolls car division was what Mayflower is primarily interested in, suggesting its real targets are the Cosworth engineering and propulsion businesses.

Rolls is reckoned to be worth £500m-£600m. That is more than the stock market capitalisation of Mayflower. Brokers calculate that Mayflower, which is valued at £477m, would need to launch a one-for-one rights issue to fund just the acquisition of the Cosworth and propulsion systems businesses, reckoned to be worth about £390m.

But there would be a heavy goodwill write-off involved in buying Rolls, while the tanks business might be worth as little as £70m once a bidder took into account the costs of closing production facilities as its Challenger tank orders run out.

The Vickers defence is likely to centre on the ability of Mayflower to fund a bid. Though Vickers has not ruled out using the Rolls-Royce sale proceeds to mount a huge share buyback, the proceeds are likely to be invested in the group's marine propulsion business and spent on small-scale acquisitions.

The resignation of a prominent tax partner brings to a head a long-running dispute with the Inland Revenue, which has made big raids on the offices of several firms. Roger Tropp reports.

A leading partner in Ernst & Young, one of the Big Six firms of chartered accountants, has resigned following an Inland Revenue investigation into suspected tax fraud.

The firm, which last month announced it was planning a merger with fellow Big Six practice KPMG, said in a statement that Robin John, who worked in the firm's London

financial services office, "has decided that it is in his interests and those of the firm" to resign from the partnership while the inquiries continue. He left last Friday, "with immediate effect".

The move follows raids in what has been described as "the most spectacular investigation ever launched" by the Revenue. Five E&Y offices, including its London headquarters, were among 40 premises raided by Revenue officials last month. Mr John's home and the offices of other professional advisers are understood to be among the others.

The Revenue last night refused to comment on the investigation. But, according to the latest issue of *Accountancy Age* magazine, it is known that

the case dates back to 1993, when officials attempted to block a series of avoidance schemes operated by UK companies. The schemes involved selling subsidiaries with large tax liabilities to trusts based in offshore tax havens, such as Guernsey.

Although the Revenue lost a lengthy legal battle with the companies in what E&Y calls "a small number of money-purchase" schemes, the law was changed in the 1994 Budget and documents were passed to the Revenue's special investigations unit. It is believed that it has examined whether purchases involved involved in the schemes and their advisers tried to cheat the Revenue.

E&Y has been conducting its own investigation and, al-

though this is not yet completed, it is understood it is not expecting any further departures. The firm added that it is continuing to give its full co-operation to the investigation.

The development comes as a report from the National Audit Office published yesterday indicates a growing tendency for tax authorities in different countries to share information. In particular, note tax practitioners, there is an increasing readiness on the part of authorities to alert their colleagues in other countries rather than wait to be asked specific questions.

One said: "In a sense this kills the idea - if it ever really existed - that one can avoid tax by hiding money or assets abroad."

Fresh funds take value of MAM portfolios over £100bn

Mercury Asset Management said yesterday it had attracted £3.8bn of new investment funds during the six months to September, taking the value of all the portfolios it manages to over £100bn for the first time. Hugh Stevenson, chairman, dismissed recent coverage of the poor performance of some of MAM's funds, saying it was wrong to extrapolate their performance to the rest of the group. He said Mercury's UK Equity fund, which has languished at the bottom of performance league tables in recent months, had been reorganised during the summer and anyway represented only a small proportion of MAM's total managed funds, which reached £104.4bn.

He said that the performance of Mercury's pooled funds should be seen in the context of their five or 10-year records, which showed them among the best funds.

During the first half-year, MAM's profit before tax rose from £31.8m to £38.4m. Underlying profits growth was faster,

at 26 per cent, because it excluded the unusually high contribution from lumpy private equity investment disposals which distorted last year's reported result.

Earnings per share rose 3p to 33.9p, from which a dividend of 12.5p, a 25 per cent increase, was paid. Mr Stevenson said the increase was in part a rebalancing of MAM's payout, which has tended to be heavily second-half weighted.

About half MAM's new business came from overseas clients. The group is concentrating on fast-growing asset management markets such as Japan, where the pension fund business has recently been liberalised, and Germany, where funds under management increased by 45 per cent.

MAM's shares, which recently slipped out of the FTSE 100 index of leading companies, closed 20p lower at 1330p. After years of steady growth, the shares have moved sideways throughout much of 1997.

Tom Stevenson
Outlook, page 23

BASE RATE

With effect from

6 November 1997

The Royal Bank of Scotland

Base Rate has

been increased

from 7.00% to

7.25% per annum.

The Royal Bank of Scotland

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.
Registered Office: 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YZ.
Registered in Scotland No. 90312.

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

Boots a safe bet
in the turmoil

In these days of bouncing stock markets, Boots, the retail giant, looks an ever safe bet. Yesterday's healthy half-year results, which reported underlying profits 6 per cent ahead of £2.3bn and sales 13 per cent stronger at £2.3bn, show Boots is acting fast to expand and differentiate its already strong Boots the Chemist (BTC) brand and keep competition from supermarkets at bay.

Boots' advantage over the likes of Tesco is that its focus on healthcare and beauty is a perfect forum for brand building. Tins of beans come in limited varieties. Shampoos, bathfoam and lipsticks offer much more scope for the creative marketing manager. Boots' own-brands, such as No.7 skincare, are selling well.

With its own manufacturing, Boots can develop innovative product lines fast. Happily BTC is also in one of the fastest growing retail markets - health and beauty products. Demand here drove up BTC sales 4.8 per cent like-for-like and profits by 10 per cent, despite poor summer weather and the Diana effect which cost £9m in lost sales.

Anyone can sell a vitamin or a toothpaste and Boots with its grounding in pharmacy is exploring ways to offer consultation on top. Concept stores offering customers advice on tooth and skin care should be rolled out over the next three years. It sounds like a great way to keep people in the shops and buying for longer.

Lord Blyth, chief executive, spies plenty of gaps in which to plug a BTC shop. The high street stores, currently 1300 in number could be expanded by 40 new shops a year with 21 larger edge of town stores expected by the year-end. Though early days, the Advantage Card, launched September 1st at a cost of £9m, looks like it will be a winner with applications already exceeding 4 million, making the 8 million card, 12 month target look beatable. Of the other retail markets, Do-It-All is recovering and in profit of this stronger first half, paving the way for an eventual self-off and profits at Halfords, the car parts retailer, surged 40 per cent.

With risk-shy investors piling into defensive stocks, the group's rating of

Boots: At a glance

Market value: £7.9bn, share price 868.5p (+21.5p)

Trading record	1995	1996	1997	1996	1997
Turnover (£bn)	4.31	4.12	4.58	2.13	2.37
Pre-tax profits (£m)	850	508	571	256	105
Earnings per share (p)	65.7	35.8	42.9	19.1	2.6
Dividends per share (p)	17.0	18.5	64.7*	6.2	6.7

*20.5p excluding special dividend

Half year sales by division

£m

Boots the Chemist 1847.0

Halterford 221.1

Boots Opticians 87.5

Do-It-All 180.9

Boots properties 52.7

Boots Healthcare International 124.1

Share price

pence

1000

900

800

700

600

500

400

1992 93 94 95 96 97

20 times on £560m profits for the full year now looks full. Hold for now.

Kwik Save slow
to arrest decline

Whoever takes over from Graham Bowler next summer faces an enormous task. Kwik Save, squeezed between the supermarket majors on the one hand and the continental discounters on the other, is struggling hard to justify its existence.

Pre-tax profits of £73.7m for the year to August were well down on the £90.3m achieved last year and look likely to continue to fall, with shoppers deserting the chain in droves. Like-for-like sales during the year fell 4 per cent while the industry as a whole reported a 5 per cent rise. In the eight weeks since the end of the financial year there has been a further 6 per cent decline.

Kwik Save has spent a fortune on advice from Andersen Consulting, which seems to have concluded that Kwik Save's shops should be more like the Tesco and Asda ones its customers

are flocking to. It is hard to see how that strategy can work, however, when the only reason for Kwik Save being there at all is that it offers something the others do not.

The company's main challenge is deceptively simple - to persuade its existing customer base to spend more. The New Generation stores, currently being rolled out, though at rather a snail's pace, now focus more on fresh produce, but most shoppers seem likely to continue to use Kwik Save only for cheap commodities.

Key to this year's results will be how successful Kwik Save proves to be in using a roll-out of its own brand labels to increase its gross margin. With sales, even after a forecast 4 per cent decline this year, expected to be around £3bn, profits are highly sensitive to small movements in the return on turnover. Squeezing another 0.8 per cent of gross margin after last year's 1.1 per cent rise could result in pre-tax profits this time of £66m, analysts believe, but growth of half as much would peg profits back to £54m.

At 325.5p, up 2p yesterday, Kwik Save's shares stand on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 13 or 15, depending on which view you take on

margins. Despite a net yield of over 6 per cent, the shares, at less than half the level they reached only two years ago, remain unattractive.

Yates Bros makes
rapid progress

Yates Brothers Wine Lodges grew out of a 19th-century wine shipper based in Manchester but joined the stock market only three years ago and embarked on a period of rapid expansion. Under the direction of Peter Dickson, a great great grandson of the founder, Yates will increase its trading outlets by an astonishing 40 per cent in the current financial year, and plans to double again over the next four years to 200 sites in all the big towns in the country.

New locations can cost up to £2m to acquire and equip, but they take an average of £20,000 a week, putting them at the very top end of the licensed premises business and move quickly into profit.

Rapid growth costs money, however. Capital expenditure doubled to almost £20m in the first half and borrowings rose to £29m. Yates yesterday hired John Barnes the managing director of the Harry Ramsden fish-and-chip chain as a non-executive director for his expertise with retail brands and tapped another source of capital when it teamed up with Quintain Estates, a South of England property company, to create an investment company specialising in licensed premises and restaurants.

Initially the joint venture will invest £20m in a portfolio of 15 of Yates' premises that will be leased back on 25-year terms, and Yates will raise a net £16m on the deal to fund further expansion.

Profits have risen steadily over the last five years including a 27 per cent increase to £5.1m before exceptional items in the six months to 28 September. But Williams de Broe is still forecasting profits of £12m and earnings of 15.5p for the full year. The shares, unchanged at 378.5p, are on 25 times prospective earnings. High enough for a family-controlled company which might need a rights issue next year.

Shell considers big
drive into Russia

Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil group, could be about to launch its biggest drive yet into the Russian oil business, according to one of the country's new agencies.

As Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports, the speculation came as the company disappointed analysts with a small increase in profits.

Reports yesterday said Shell was planning to make a joint bid with Gazprom, the oil and gas group, for Rosneft, one of Russia's biggest oil businesses. The Russian government intends to privatise Rosneft next year.

Shell described the reports as "speculation" yesterday and declined to comment further. The oil giant has already made more limited in-roads into Russia, though a partnership in an offshore venture with Marathon, Mitsubishi and Mitsui.

The company has also been given approval to build several petrol station sites in St Petersburg, with the first garage due to open this year.

The speculation follows indications by British Petroleum earlier this week of renewed interest in Russia after a disappointing experience in the early 1990s. BP has recently expanded a chain of petrol stations in Moscow and said it was debating whether to step up its investment programme into the upstream oil exploration business. John Browne, chief executive, said BP was "talking to lots of people" in Russia and was encouraged by the improving political climate for foreign investors.

Shares in Shell Transport, the UK-quoted part of the group, fell 8p yesterday to 412.5p, after the company revealed a modest 5 per cent rise in earnings in the third quarter, excluding special items, to £1.17bn. Shell said the results was its second record third-quarter performance in a row, but analysts pointed to continuing uncertainty over the future

of the group's £7bn cash pile.

One analyst, John Toalster from Société Générale, said: "There is a lot of hope value and nothing is materialising." Shell has previously said a buy-back was unlikely in the short term because of unfavourable tax treatment in the Netherlands.

Shell has raised expectations with recent deals, including buying out its Italian joint venture partner, Montedison, in the Montell plastics making business.

The results were boosted by continuing cost cutting in Shell's exploration and production business, which partly offset the recent drop in oil prices. Third-quarter earnings from exploration and production fell 1 per cent, to £595m. Shell yesterday said it was pleased by the efficiency gains, which a spokesman described as "self help", apparently borrowing a phrase which has become BP's mantra.

Profits margins from oil refining and marketing, including petrol retailing, improved significantly. Refining and marketing earnings between July and September were £451m, up 7 per cent on the previous year.

Royal SunAlliance profits slip

Royal SunAlliance yesterday blamed what it called "the London bus syndrome" for a leap in claims in the third quarter of this year which caused its profits to slip.

The composite insurer said it had been hit by an unusually high number of claims, which cost £93m, 79 per cent more than in the third quarter of 1996. This helped to push down profits over the nine months by £3m to £738m.

A company spokesman said: "We normally expect there to be a steady flow of reasonably large claims, such as fires and floods. But this year we have had an extraordinarily good first six months. Like the Lon-

don buses all coming at once, we had all the claims between July and September."

Royal SunAlliance said the volcano eruption in Montserrat and large claims on UK property had boosted the claims figure. The company said it had also been hit by the strong pound because half of its general insurance and a third of its life insurance was sold abroad.

Investors drove down Royal SunAlliance shares by 19.5p to 580.5p. The drop of 2.5 per cent compared with a 1 per cent slide in the FTSE 100 index.

Some analysts said they were disappointed the insurer had as yet failed to deliver on a promised share buy-back. It

said Budget changes to advanced corporation tax had to be digested first.

One analyst said: "The market is dissatisfied with the attitude and is unsure whether the company may be procrastinating. The proposal was made before the Budget but if the commitment remains to go ahead with the buy-back, the company should go on."

Other observers said performance in the US had been lacklustre. While last year's merger between Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance had produced savings of £110m in line with expectations, the company needed a new focus, they added.

- Andrew Verity

Barclays Base
Rate Change

Barclays Bank PLC
announces that with effect from

6th November 1997,

its Base Rate has increased

from 7.00% to 7.25%



BARCLAYS BANK PLC
REGISTERED OFFICE: 34 LOMBARD STREET, EC3P 3AH
REGISTERED NUMBER 1026167



Base Rate

Australia and New Zealand
Banking Group Limited
announces that its base
rate has changed from 7%
to 7.25% p.a. with effect
from close of business on
6th November, 1997.



PO Box 130
London SW1Y 4LF
Tel: 0171 451 3500

Etam continues
talks with bidders

Etam, the troubled womenswear retailer, said yesterday it was continuing to hold talks with potential bidders for the company, but declined to divulge the identity of any of the suitors.

"These proposals are being actively considered and a further announcement will be communicated to shareholders as soon as possible," Nick Hollingworth, Etam's managing director, said yesterday. News that the company was in bid talks was first announced last month.

The most likely bidders, according to market sources, include House of Fraser, New Look and a US footwear retailer, Nine West.

Meanwhile, the company yesterday reported a loss of £7.8m for the half-year to 9 August, one third larger than in the equivalent period last year. Turnover was down 6 per cent, rent and rates edged higher and staff costs went up nearly 5 per cent. Gearing and interest charges rose, although capital expenditure was cut from £4.5m to £2.8m and the number of shops was pruned from 221 to 214.

Sales were adversely affected by the cool, wet weather in June, and extra mark-downs on prices were needed to clear unsold stock. In the first four weeks of the second-half, sales of autumn stock were depressed by unseasonably good weather and the impact of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Trade had since improved and like-for-like sales in the past eight weeks had been 4.4 per cent ahead of last year, Mr Hollingworth said.

Seven recently refurbished "new format" stores, including four entirely new shops which have been promoted using the actress Patsy Kensit, are performing above budget. The three existing stores converted to the new format are trading "considerably above budget" and independent market research shows the new shopfit and the improved range of merchandise are bringing lapsed customers back to Etam, according to yesterday's statement.

The shares fell a further 1.5p to 118p, a far cry from the peak of 280p three years ago.

- Clifford German

Parity pushes into US market

Parity, one of the UK's leading providers of information technology services, is making its first push into the US market by buying two complementary American companies.

The London-based company will pay £21.6m to buy Tel-Tech and Personal Solutions, two family-owned businesses located in New York. A further £3m will be paid depending on the businesses performance in the next two years.

Jonathan Gross, president of Tel-Tech, will stay at the helm of his company while selling his majority stake.

Parity said yesterday that the acquisitions would give it the opportunity to grow in the US

organically. Further local acquisitions were also a possibility.

Philip Swinstead, Parity's chairman, said: "We have been carefully preparing for this move and Tel-Tech provides the stable, long-established base that we have been seeking."

He added that Parity and Tel-Tech had the same approach to their businesses, combining permanent employees with freelance or temporary staff. Parity has 1,000 full-time staff and 2,500 part-time employees. Tel-Tech has a workforce of 460.

Parity will raise £26.9m on the stock market to pay for the deal. Shares rose to 595p, up 17.5p on the day.

Ofwat reveals extent of
hosepipe ban

Some 32 per cent of households in England and Wales were subject to hosepipe bans last year, according to figures released yesterday by Ofwat, the water watchdog. Ofwat said the numbers of bans had fallen in the year to the end of March compared with the previous year. The report praised the performance of some companies was not good enough. The report showed 92 per cent of enquiries about bills were answered within five working days, while the number of written complaints fell by 15,000 to 157,000. Poor performance was highlighted at Anglian Water, North West, South West and Wessex, which were asked to provide plans for improvement.

BSkyB deal confirmed

BSkyB and Cable & Wireless Communications yesterday confirmed they had signed a deal to co-operate on the launch of digital satellite and cable television. As part of the two to three-year agreement, which had been trailed for many months, CWC is to take BSkyB's pay-per-view service, Sky Box Office, on analogue and digital platforms. Customers will be able to pay to view movies, sporting and music events. The pact threatens to undermine an alliance between four other cable companies to develop a pay-per-view service.

German manufacturing

German manufacturing orders fell a seasonally adjusted 1.8 per cent in September from August and were up an unadjusted 10.9 per cent from a year earlier, the Economics Ministry said. The consensus forecast had been for a rise of 0.6 per cent. The ministry said it expects an upward correction in the September data. The fact holidays were later this year distorted the figures for September and August. Domestic orders in Germany were down 2.0 per cent in September from August and up 4.2 per cent from a year earlier, while foreign orders shed 1.3 per cent on the month, but rose 22.3 per cent on the year.

Boost for Northern Leisure

Shares in the fast-expanding Northern Leisure chain of licensed dance halls rose 11p to a peak of 325.5p yesterday after Nick Oppenheim, vice chairman, delivered an up-beat statement at the annual meeting. In the nine weeks since 1 September like-for-like sales have increased 3.8 per cent and total sales are 91.3 per cent ahead, thanks to new outlets. Three more sites have been acquired in the last two months at a cost of £7.3m, bringing the number of outlets to 44.

Capita wins Lambeth deal

Capita, the management consultants and information technology group, has won a contract worth £48m over seven years to supply services to the London Borough of Lambeth. Capita will develop Lambeth's office into a London Business Centre which hopes to attract additional business to the borough.

Care First buys SurgiChem

Care First Group, the nursing home provider, has acquired SurgiChem, a manufacturer of monitored dosage systems, for £1.3m plus a performance payment of up to £100,000. SurgiChem made a profit of about £230,000 in the year to end September.

Daiwa executives
arrested in Tokyo

The Japanese "gangster pay-off" scandal escalated yesterday as Hiromitsu Sogame, former vice-president of Tokyo-based brokerage Daiwa Securities, was arrested along with three other Daiwa senior officials.

Senior executives at all of Japan's "Big Four" brokerages - Daiwa, Nomura, Nikko and Yamaichi - have now been arrested in connection with alleged illegal payments to Japanese racketeers, known as *sakaiya*. Besides the breaking houses, several other leading financial institutions, including Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, have been caught up in the scandal.

"This is threatening to destroy the international credibility of the entire Japanese economy," said Kanezo Munaka, chief cabinet secretary, in an address to Japanese business leaders yesterday.

Until recently, the scandal was thought to be confined to the financial community. But recent revelations that Mitsubishi, the car maker, and Toshiba, the giant electronics company, had made payments to alleged racketeers showed that the influence of the *sakaiya* was more

widespread than originally thought.

Sakaiya are extortionists who extract money from companies in return for not disrupting shareholders' meetings. Payments to *sakaiya* have been illegal in Japan since 1983.

The Japanese media have alleged that several top Japanese firms have channelled money to extortionists via payments for beach houses rented from a *sakaiya*-associated firm. Hitachi, the electronics group, last week admitted that it had made payments of this type.

The scandal has begun to impact upon the financial health of leading Japanese companies. Moody's Investor Service, the credit rating agency, warned yesterday that Yamaichi Securities' bond ratings could be downgraded. Moody's is conducting a review of Yamaichi.

"The review will consider the long-term implications of the illegal payments scandal involving Yamaichi, and the diminished likelihood of government support for the firm in the case of financial distress", Moody's added.

- Leo Paterson

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Boots (p)	2.4bn (2.1bn)	253m (236m)	19.3p (17.3p)	6.7p (6.2p)
Clyde Biomed (p)	85.5m (45.1m)	1.13m (2.33m)	5.79p (19.54p)	8p (8p)
Estimote & Agency (p)	- (-)	1.54m (1.05m)	17.5p (15.22p)	18.5p (15p)
Flax (p)	88.1m (94.5m)	-9.55m (-6.78m)	-11.87p (-8.93p)	0.5p (0.5p)
Greyhound (p)	13.7m (17.8m)	5.6m (3.8m)	4.6p (3.1p)	nil (-)
Kwik Save (p)	3.2bn (3.1bn)	73.7m (8.8m)	27.75p (37.68p)	20p (20p)
MAH (p)	190m (166m)	88.4m (81.8m)	33.9p (30.9p)	12.5p (10p)
Megalomedia (p)	5.7m (1.9m)	1.17m (0.87m)	1.22p (1.14p)	nil (-)
MMT Consulting (p)	24.8m (10.9m)	5.55m (4.53m)	29.8p (24.8p)	11.3p (8.7p)
Novel & Sun (Shares)	- (-)	832m (899m)	36.7p (40.9p)	nil (-)
Yates Bros Wine (p)	44.1m (34.4m)	5.1m (4.22m)	8.4p (6.4p)	1.15p (0.95p)

(p) - Profit (l) - Interim (t) - Dividend to be paid as a final dividend
* - Pre-tax figure used to pre-exceptionally * - EPS figure before exceptional items

25/SHARES

Norwich Union lifted by takeover talk once again

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN
STOCK
MARKET
REPORTER
OF THE YEAR

Norwich Union, the insurance group which has suffered near continuous blasts of takeover speculation since arriving on the stock market in the summer, again stole the limelight, gaining 8.5p to 359p.

In busy trading the shares were at one time riding at 361.5p with a stream of small deals going through.

The insurer has put on a remarkable display since flotation when shares were offered to members at 265p and institutions at 290p. Members also collected free shares.

Long before Norwich made its market debut there was a strong conviction its days of independence were numbered. Indeed, towards the end of the flotation count down there was often intense speculation of bids being prepared.

The latest share strength heralds another round of bid

talk. Barclays and Lloyds TSB remain the market's favourite predators.

The Barclays image, suffering from the BZW sale fiasco, would benefit from a positive move like an insurance strike and Lloyds has already made clear it still pursues insurance ambitions.

But the bid story does not get universal support. There is a school of thought that the share display is due to institutions taking advantage of selling by small shareholders. At the time of the issue their allocations were cut back.

Norwich shrugged off a downturn session which was threatening to be a non event even before the surprise interest rate increase. Footsie ended 44.5 points down at 4,863.8, at one time it was off 67.1. Supporting shares were also ruffled.

RJB Mining had another distressing time, hit by a mystery 8 million share sale. An institution sold the shares at 150p, below the then market price, to another institution. The identity of the buyer and seller was not disclosed but many suspect Mercury Asset Management topped up its stake with Abbey Life unloading.

RJB has been hit by cheap coal imports and generators switching from coal to gas. It has warned of pit closures and 4,000 job losses. The Government has ruled out offering a helping hand.

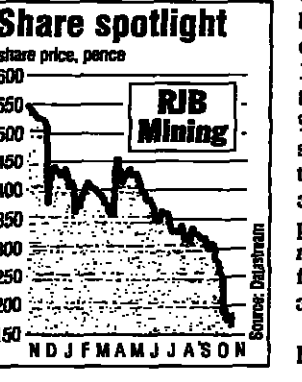
Last month Dresdner Kleinwort Benson said and warned the shares may be worth only 100p; they ended 15p off at 165p.

Pittington was again the heaviest traded share with a 31.7 million volume recorded. The price recovered some of

Wednesday's fall, ending 5.5p higher at 136.5p.

Rank, up 3p to 346p, continued its buy back programme, picking up 1.8 million shares at 345p. Analysts toured some of its British leisure operations this week.

Colt Telecom remained in form following Wednesday's results. It added a further 24.5p to 561.5p, a 47p two-day advance.



falling 70p to 762.5p. The shares were 1,070p when they arrived in the spring. The European victory lifted Manchester United just 1p to 654p.

Northern Leisure's upbeat trading statement pushed the shares 11p higher to 325.5p, a peak. Matthew Clark, the hard pressed cider and wine group, softened 3p to 241.5p after Merrill Lynch turned cautious.

Belphire, interim figures next month, advanced 16p to a 251.5p peak. There is some talk of corporate action. The company provides credit for motorists involved in no-fault accidents.

Key's Road, the contract caterer, held at 2.75p. Kevin Leech, chief of ML Laboratories, has lifted his interest to 6.6 per cent through his Millennium Ventures. Stuart Sim, ML's finance director, has around 1 per cent.

TAKING STOCK

Era, the struggling retailer, held at 3.25p as a consortium led by entrepreneur Lake Johnson was revealed as a possible buyer of its Techno camera chain. Mr Johnson's team includes Charles Dunstone of The Carphone Warehouse and electrical retailer Julian Richer. It is believed the group attempted to mount a reverse takeover before Era came under new management. There is speculation Mr Johnson and friends still see Era as a possible vehicle for a stock market presence.

Avotec Mining rose 8p to 150p as Société Générale Strauss Turnbull forecast it could move from losses into profits of £10.5m in the year to March 1999. The company is a leading producer of tungsten, where demand is increasing, and has gold operations in Malaysia.

12 week			12 week			12 week			12 week			12 week			12 week										
High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code		
Alcoholic Beverages																									
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40	40	Adn	40.00	0.00	0.00		

Vets W as frac

The American... challenge for the... Street... has suffered a... directing... 48 hours before... would have... final... breaking... Street... Los Angeles

ATTENTION

1.40...
1.40...
2.10...
1.40...
2.10...
HEXHAN...
1.20...
2.20...
1.20...
1.50...
2.20...

Vets work to save Singspiel as fracture ends his career

The linchpin of Britain's challenge for the Breeders' Cup, Singspiel, has suffered a life-threatening injury just 48 hours before what would have been the final race of his record-breaking career. Richard Edmondson reports from Los Angeles.

A gallop in the fog ended Singspiel's participation in the Breeders' Cup here yesterday. Veterinarians are now working to ensure it does not also terminate his life.

The little horse, the biggest earner in the history of European racing, broke a cannon bone as he continued his preparation for tomorrow's Turf race. After 20 contests, spread over four seasons, a life-threatening injury struck just 48 hours before his final mission. "It would have been his last race and at least it's a lot better than happening today than on Saturday because he would have been going a lot faster then," Anthony Stroud, the racing manager to

Singspiel's owner, Sheikh Mohammed, said. "I hope he can be saved for stud."

The little form of Singspiel had begun all the American workweeks since his arrival in Los Angeles. He had become the horse of the Breeders' Cup. Much of his work had been under clear, California skies, but yesterday the five-year-old emerged to conditions far more familiar to him and reminiscent of a Newmarket gallops morning. Visibility was down to 100 yards as a grey pall enveloped Hollywood Park.

Singspiel and his regular work rider, Kevin Bradshaw, were let on to the turf course just outside the track kitchen. The partnership cantered into the cloud of mist and a walkie-talkie report relayed that the horse was galloping just past the wire on the opposite side of the track. Then there was nothing.

The wait became too protracted for comfort and Michael Stoute, Singspiel's trainer, scuttled off in search of his horse. When Stoute returned both he and Bradshaw were at the five-year-old's side. It was immediately obvious that the horse's Breeders' Cup

was over. "I could not see the work myself because of the fog," Stoute said, "but he breezed for four furlongs and, just about 20 yards before the line, Kevin felt something go."

Singspiel's condition appeared to deteriorate over every limping yard back to the high, green-fenced quarantine yard. He had a piteous look in his eye. The contest he had now been thrown into was the one to save his life and Steve Buttgenbach, a track vet, was the first medical man to attend the horse. Around him there were tears in the Stoute camp.

An x-ray was taken to determine whether the damage was clean or a more serious spiral fracture. The results confirmed the former. "He sustained a mildly displaced condylar fracture of the right forelimb," Stoute said. "It is anticipated that his injury will require surgical stabilisation on probably Friday and Saturday, depending on his progress."

"The prognosis for such an injury is normally favourable, barring any complications, and the recovery period would be between two and four months," By then, Singspiel himself

was bandaged and standing in ice. The trauma he was feeling was stabilised by medication. Sheikh Mohammed was contacted in Dubai.

As the natural mist lifted, another descended with the realisation that not only was the meeting's figurehead out but Britain's challenge had been reduced to a rumour. It was time to remember happier times, and Stroud and Stoute concurred on Singspiel's greatest moment.

"The Dubai World Cup was his best race because he met seasoned American horses on a surface more familiar to them," the trainer said. "That was his crowning moment."

Stoute added: "That is why this horse is so special to Sheikh Mohammed, because he won the Dubai World Cup. That was definitely the pinnacle of his career. It's very disappointing but these things happen with horses. They are not machines. 'This horse has done us very, very good. He's won in England, Ireland, Dubai, Japan and Canada. The main thing now is to try to save the horse. He's been versatile, tough and consistent. He's done us majestically really.'"



Singspiel is accompanied by his trainer, Michael Stoute, as he steps out on the track at Hollywood Park prior to his injury yesterday. Photograph: Harry How

Call evokes old memories

Dorans Pfiere emerged victorious over Imperial Call at Clonmel yesterday, but a solid performance from the runner-up announced that he is again a Gold Cup contender.

Dorans Pfiere remains 6-1 favourite for the Cheltenham showpiece after his nine-length victory in the three-runner Morris Oil Chase, but Imperial Call, the 1996 Gold Cup winner, was cut to 12-1 after a promising effort on his first outing since being pulled up in this year's Gold Cup.

The BHB claimed yesterday that racing will lose £5m of funding because of the decision by the big three bookmakers to change the way they make levy payments. Ladbrokes, William Hill and Coral are to revert to a shop-based scheme for calculating levy payments rather than one based on turnover.

RACING

MUSSELBURGH
12.30 1. ANTIACHT STAM (R Winton) 11-2; 2. Albatross 11-2; 3. Scabbard 11-2; 4. 14-1; 5. 14-1; 6. 14-1; 7. 14-1; 8. 14-1; 9. 14-1; 10. 14-1; 11. 14-1; 12. 14-1; 13. 14-1; 14. 14-1; 15. 14-1; 16. 14-1; 17. 14-1; 18. 14-1; 19. 14-1; 20. 14-1; 21. 14-1; 22. 14-1; 23. 14-1; 24. 14-1; 25. 14-1; 26. 14-1; 27. 14-1; 28. 14-1; 29. 14-1; 30. 14-1; 31. 14-1; 32. 14-1; 33. 14-1; 34. 14-1; 35. 14-1; 36. 14-1; 37. 14-1; 38. 14-1; 39. 14-1; 40. 14-1; 41. 14-1; 42. 14-1; 43. 14-1; 44. 14-1; 45. 14-1; 46. 14-1; 47. 14-1; 48. 14-1; 49. 14-1; 50. 14-1; 51. 14-1; 52. 14-1; 53. 14-1; 54. 14-1; 55. 14-1; 56. 14-1; 57. 14-1; 58. 14-1; 59. 14-1; 60. 14-1; 61. 14-1; 62. 14-1; 63. 14-1; 64. 14-1; 65. 14-1; 66. 14-1; 67. 14-1; 68. 14-1; 69. 14-1; 70. 14-1; 71. 14-1; 72. 14-1; 73. 14-1; 74. 14-1; 75. 14-1; 76. 14-1; 77. 14-1; 78. 14-1; 79. 14-1; 80. 14-1; 81. 14-1; 82. 14-1; 83. 14-1; 84. 14-1; 85. 14-1; 86. 14-1; 87. 14-1; 88. 14-1; 89. 14-1; 90. 14-1; 91. 14-1; 92. 14-1; 93. 14-1; 94. 14-1; 95. 14-1; 96. 14-1; 97. 14-1; 98. 14-1; 99. 14-1; 100. 14-1; 101. 14-1; 102. 14-1; 103. 14-1; 104. 14-1; 105. 14-1; 106. 14-1; 107. 14-1; 108. 14-1; 109. 14-1; 110. 14-1; 111. 14-1; 112. 14-1; 113. 14-1; 114. 14-1; 115. 14-1; 116. 14-1; 117. 14-1; 118. 14-1; 119. 14-1; 120. 14-1; 121. 14-1; 122. 14-1; 123. 14-1; 124. 14-1; 125. 14-1; 126. 14-1; 127. 14-1; 128. 14-1; 129. 14-1; 130. 14-1; 131. 14-1; 132. 14-1; 133. 14-1; 134. 14-1; 135. 14-1; 136. 14-1; 137. 14-1; 138. 14-1; 139. 14-1; 140. 14-1; 141. 14-1; 142. 14-1; 143. 14-1; 144. 14-1; 145. 14-1; 146. 14-1; 147. 14-1; 148. 14-1; 149. 14-1; 150. 14-1; 151. 14-1; 152. 14-1; 153. 14-1; 154. 14-1; 155. 14-1; 156. 14-1; 157. 14-1; 158. 14-1; 159. 14-1; 160. 14-1; 161. 14-1; 162. 14-1; 163. 14-1; 164. 14-1; 165. 14-1; 166. 14-1; 167. 14-1; 168. 14-1; 169. 14-1; 170. 14-1; 171. 14-1; 172. 14-1; 173. 14-1; 174. 14-1; 175. 14-1; 176. 14-1; 177. 14-1; 178. 14-1; 179. 14-1; 180. 14-1; 181. 14-1; 182. 14-1; 183. 14-1; 184. 14-1; 185. 14-1; 186. 14-1; 187. 14-1; 188. 14-1; 189. 14-1; 190. 14-1; 191. 14-1; 192. 14-1; 193. 14-1; 194. 14-1; 195. 14-1; 196. 14-1; 197. 14-1; 198. 14-1; 199. 14-1; 200. 14-1; 201. 14-1; 202. 14-1; 203. 14-1; 204. 14-1; 205. 14-1; 206. 14-1; 207. 14-1; 208. 14-1; 209. 14-1; 210. 14-1; 211. 14-1; 212. 14-1; 213. 14-1; 214. 14-1; 215. 14-1; 216. 14-1; 217. 14-1; 218. 14-1; 219. 14-1; 220. 14-1; 221. 14-1; 222. 14-1; 223. 14-1; 224. 14-1; 225. 14-1; 226. 14-1; 227. 14-1; 228. 14-1; 229. 14-1; 230. 14-1; 231. 14-1; 232. 14-1; 233. 14-1; 234. 14-1; 235. 14-1; 236. 14-1; 237. 14-1; 238. 14-1; 239. 14-1; 240. 14-1; 241. 14-1; 242. 14-1; 243. 14-1; 244. 14-1; 245. 14-1; 246. 14-1; 247. 14-1; 248. 14-1; 249. 14-1; 250. 14-1; 251. 14-1; 252. 14-1; 253. 14-1; 254. 14-1; 255. 14-1; 256. 14-1; 257. 14-1; 258. 14-1; 259. 14-1; 260. 14-1; 261. 14-1; 262. 14-1; 263. 14-1; 264. 14-1; 265. 14-1; 266. 14-1; 267. 14-1; 268. 14-1; 269. 14-1; 270. 14-1; 271. 14-1; 272. 14-1; 273. 14-1; 274. 14-1; 275. 14-1; 276. 14-1; 277. 14-1; 278. 14-1; 279. 14-1; 280. 14-1; 281. 14-1; 282. 14-1; 283. 14-1; 284. 14-1; 285. 14-1; 286. 14-1; 287. 14-1; 288. 14-1; 289. 14-1; 290. 14-1; 291. 14-1; 292. 14-1; 293. 14-1; 294. 14-1; 295. 14-1; 296. 14-1; 297. 14-1; 298. 14-1; 299. 14-1; 300. 14-1; 301. 14-1; 302. 14-1; 303. 14-1; 304. 14-1; 305. 14-1; 306. 14-1; 307. 14-1; 308. 14-1; 309. 14-1; 310. 14-1; 311. 14-1; 312. 14-1; 313. 14-1; 314. 14-1; 315. 14-1; 316. 14-1; 317. 14-1; 318. 14-1; 319. 14-1; 320. 14-1; 321. 14-1; 322. 14-1; 323. 14-1; 324. 14-1; 325. 14-1; 326. 14-1; 327. 14-1; 328. 14-1; 329. 14-1; 330. 14-1; 331. 14-1; 332. 14-1; 333. 14-1; 334. 14-1; 335. 14-1; 336. 14-1; 337. 14-1; 338. 14-1; 339. 14-1; 340. 14-1; 341. 14-1; 342. 14-1; 343. 14-1; 344. 14-1; 345. 14-1; 346. 14-1; 347. 14-1; 348. 14-1; 349. 14-1; 350. 14-1; 351. 14-1; 352. 14-1; 353. 14-1; 354. 14-1; 355. 14-1; 356. 14-1; 357. 14-1; 358. 14-1; 359. 14-1; 360. 14-1; 361. 14-1; 362. 14-1; 363. 14-1; 364. 14-1; 365. 14-1; 366. 14-1; 367. 14-1; 368. 14-1; 369. 14-1; 370. 14-1; 371. 14-1; 372. 14-1; 373. 14-1; 374. 14-1; 375. 14-1; 376. 14-1; 377. 14-1; 378. 14-1; 379. 14-1; 380. 14-1; 381. 14-1; 382. 14-1; 383. 14-1; 384. 14-1; 385. 14-1; 386. 14-1; 387. 14-1; 388. 14-1; 389. 14-1; 390. 14-1; 391. 14-1; 392. 14-1; 393. 14-1; 394. 14-1; 395. 14-1; 396. 14-1; 397. 14-1; 398. 14-1; 399. 14-1; 400. 14-1; 401. 14-1; 402. 14-1; 403. 14-1; 404. 14-1; 405. 14-1; 406. 14-1; 407. 14-1; 408. 14-1; 409. 14-1; 410. 14-1; 411. 14-1; 412. 14-1; 413. 14-1; 414. 14-1; 415. 14-1; 416. 14-1; 417. 14-1; 418. 14-1; 419. 14-1; 420. 14-1; 421. 14-1; 422. 14-1; 423. 14-1; 424. 14-1; 425. 14-1; 426. 14-1; 427. 14-1; 428. 14-1; 429. 14-1; 430. 14-1; 431. 14-1; 432. 14-1; 433. 14-1; 434. 14-1; 435. 14-1; 436. 14-1; 437. 14-1; 438. 14-1; 439. 14-1; 440. 14-1; 441. 14-1; 442. 14-1; 443. 14-1; 444. 14-1; 445. 14-1; 446. 14-1; 447. 14-1; 448. 14-1; 449. 14-1; 450. 14-1; 451. 14-1; 452. 14-1; 453. 14-1; 454. 14-1; 455. 14-1; 456. 14-1; 457. 14-1; 458. 14-1; 459. 14-1; 460. 14-1; 461. 14-1; 462. 14-1; 463. 14-1; 464. 14-1; 465. 14-1; 466. 14-1; 467. 14-1; 468. 14-1; 469. 14-1; 470. 14-1; 471. 14-1; 472. 14-1; 473. 14-1; 474. 14-1; 475. 14-1; 476. 14-1; 477. 14-1; 478. 14-1; 479. 14-1; 480. 14-1; 481. 14-1; 482. 14-1; 483. 14-1; 484. 14-1; 485. 14-1; 486. 14-1; 487. 14-1; 488. 14-1; 489. 14-1; 490. 14-1; 491. 14-1; 492. 14-1; 493. 14-1; 494. 14-1; 495. 14-1; 496. 14-1; 497. 14-1; 498. 14-1; 499. 14-1; 500. 14-1; 501. 14-1; 502. 14-1; 503. 14-1; 504. 14-1; 505. 14-1; 506. 14-1; 507. 14-1; 508. 14-1; 509. 14-1; 510. 14-1; 511. 14-1; 512. 14-1; 513. 14-1; 514. 14-1; 515. 14-1; 516. 14-1; 517. 14-1; 518. 14-1; 519. 14-1; 520. 14-1; 521. 14-1; 522. 14-1; 523. 14-1; 524. 14-1; 525. 14-1; 526. 14-1; 527. 14-1; 528. 14-1; 529. 14-1; 530. 14-1; 531. 14-1; 532. 14-1; 533. 14-1; 534. 14-1; 535. 14-1; 536. 14-1; 537. 14-1; 538. 14-1; 539. 14-1; 540. 14-1; 541. 14-1; 542. 14-1; 543. 14-1; 544. 14-1; 545. 14-1; 546. 14-1; 547. 14-1; 548. 14-1; 549. 14-1; 550. 14-1; 551. 14-1; 552. 14-1; 553. 14-1; 554. 14-1; 555. 14-1; 556. 14-1; 557. 14-1; 558. 14-1; 559. 14-1; 560. 14-1; 561. 14-1; 562. 14-1; 563. 14-1; 564. 14-1; 565. 14-1; 566. 14-1; 567. 14-1; 568. 14-1; 569. 14-1; 570. 14-1; 571. 14-1; 572. 14-1; 573. 14-1; 574. 14-1; 575. 14-1; 576. 14-1; 577. 14-1; 578. 14-1; 579. 14-1; 580. 14-1; 581. 14-1; 582. 14-1; 583. 14-1; 584. 14-1; 585. 14-1; 586. 14-1; 587. 14-1; 588. 14-1; 589. 14-1; 590. 14-1; 591. 14-1; 592. 14-1; 593. 14-1; 594. 14-1; 595. 14-1; 596. 14-1; 597. 14-1; 598. 14-1; 599. 14-1; 600. 14-1; 601. 14-1; 602. 14-1; 603. 14-1; 604. 14-1; 605. 14-1; 606. 14-1; 607. 14-1; 608. 14-1; 609. 14-1; 610. 14-1; 611. 14-1; 612. 14-1; 613. 14-1; 614. 14-1; 615. 14-1; 616. 14-1; 617. 14-1; 618. 14-1; 619. 14-1; 620. 14-1; 621. 14-1; 622. 14-1; 623. 14-1; 624. 14-1; 625. 14-1; 626. 14-1; 627. 14-1; 628. 14-1; 629. 14-1; 630. 14-1; 631. 14-1; 632. 14-1; 633. 14-1; 634. 14-1; 635. 14-1; 636. 14-1; 637. 14-1; 638. 14-1; 639. 14-1; 640. 14-1; 641. 14-1; 642. 14-1; 643. 14-1; 644. 14-1; 645. 14-1; 646. 14-1; 647. 14-1; 648. 14-1; 649. 14-1; 650. 14-1; 651. 14-1; 652. 14-1; 653. 14-1; 654. 14-1; 655. 14-1; 656. 14-1; 657. 14-1; 658. 14-1; 659. 14-1; 660. 14-1; 661. 14-1; 662. 14-1; 663. 14-1; 664. 14-1; 665. 14-1; 666. 14-1; 667. 14-1; 668. 14-1; 669. 14-1; 670. 14-1; 671. 14-1; 672. 14-1; 673. 14-1; 674. 14-1; 675. 14-1; 676. 14-1; 677. 14-1; 678. 14-1; 679. 14-1; 680. 14-1; 681. 14-1; 682. 14-1; 683. 14-1; 684. 14-1; 685. 14-1; 686. 14-1; 687. 14-1; 688. 14-1; 689. 14-1; 690. 14-1; 691. 14-1; 692. 14-1; 693. 14-1; 694. 14-1; 695. 14-1; 696. 14-1; 697. 14-1; 698. 14-1; 699. 14-1; 700. 14-1; 701. 14-1; 702. 14-1; 703. 14-1; 704. 14-1; 705. 14-1; 706. 14-1; 707. 14-1; 708. 14-1; 709. 14-1; 710. 14-1; 711. 14-1; 712. 14-1; 713. 14-1; 714. 14-1; 715. 14-1; 716. 14-1; 717. 14-1; 718. 14-1; 719. 14-1; 720. 14-1; 721. 14-1; 722. 14-1; 723. 14-1; 724. 14-1; 725. 14-1; 726. 14-1; 727. 14-1; 728. 14-1; 729. 14-1; 730. 14-1; 731. 14-1; 732. 14-1; 733. 14-1; 734. 14-1; 735. 14-1; 736. 14-1; 737. 14-1; 738. 14-1; 739. 14-1; 740. 14-1; 741. 14-1; 742. 14-1; 743. 14-1; 744. 14-1; 745. 14-1; 746. 14-1; 747. 14-1; 748. 14-1; 749. 14-1; 750. 14-1; 751. 14-1; 752. 14-1; 753. 14-1; 754. 14-1; 755. 14-1; 756. 14-1; 757. 14-1; 758. 14-1; 759. 14-1; 760. 14-1; 761. 14-1; 762. 14-1; 763. 14-1; 764. 14-1; 765. 14-1; 766. 14-1; 767. 14-1; 768. 14-1; 769. 14-1; 770. 14-1; 771. 14-1; 772. 14-1; 773. 14-1; 774. 14-1; 775. 14-1; 776. 14-1; 777. 14-1; 778. 14-1; 779. 14-1; 780. 14-1; 781. 14-1; 782. 14-1; 783. 14-1; 784. 14-1; 785. 14-1; 786. 14-1; 787. 14-1; 788. 14-1; 789. 14-1; 790. 14-1; 791. 14-1; 792. 14-1; 793. 14-1; 794. 14-1; 795. 14-1; 796. 14-1; 797. 14-1; 798. 14-1; 799. 14-1; 800. 14-1; 801. 14-1; 802. 14-1; 803. 14-1; 804. 14-1; 805. 14-1; 806. 14-1; 807. 14-1; 808. 14-1; 809. 14-1; 810. 14-1; 811. 14-1; 812. 14-1; 813. 14-1; 814. 14-1; 815. 14-1; 816. 14-1; 817. 14-1; 818. 14-1; 819. 14-1; 820. 14-1; 821. 14-1; 822. 14-1; 823. 14-1; 824. 14-1; 825. 14-1; 826. 14-1; 827. 14-1; 828. 14-1; 829. 14-1; 830. 14-1; 831. 14-1; 832. 14-1; 833. 14-1; 834. 14-1; 835. 14-1; 836. 14-1; 837. 14-1; 838. 14-1; 839. 14-1; 840. 14-1; 841. 14-1; 842. 14-1; 843. 14-1; 844. 14-1; 845. 14-1; 846. 14-1; 847. 14-1; 848. 14-1; 849. 14-1; 850. 14-1; 851. 14-1; 852. 14-1; 853. 14-1; 854. 14-1; 855. 14-1; 856. 14-1; 857. 14-1; 858. 14-1; 859. 14-1; 860. 14-1; 861. 14-1; 862. 14-1; 863. 14-1; 864. 14-1; 865. 14-1; 866. 14-1; 867. 14-1; 868. 14-1; 869. 14-1; 870. 14-1; 871. 14-1; 872. 14-1; 873. 14-1; 874. 14-1; 875. 14-1; 876. 14-1; 877. 14-1; 878. 14-1; 879. 14-1; 880. 14-1; 881. 14-1; 882. 14-1; 883. 14-1; 884. 14-1; 885. 14-1; 886. 14-1; 887. 14-1; 888. 14-1; 889. 14-1; 890. 14-1; 891. 14-1; 892. 14-1; 893. 14-1; 894. 14-1; 895. 14-1; 896. 14-1; 897. 14-1; 898. 14-1; 899. 14-1; 900. 14-1; 901. 14-1; 902. 14-1; 903. 14-1; 904. 14-1; 905. 14-1; 906. 14-1; 907. 14-1; 908. 14-1; 909. 14-1; 910. 14-1; 911. 14-1; 912. 14-1; 913. 14-1; 914. 14-1; 915. 14-1; 916. 14-1; 917. 14-1; 918. 14-1; 919. 14-1; 920. 14-1; 921. 14-1; 922. 14-1; 923. 14-1; 924. 14-1; 925. 14-1; 926. 14-1; 927. 14-1; 928. 14-1; 929. 14-1; 930. 14-1; 931. 14-1; 932. 14-1; 933. 14-1; 934. 14-1; 935. 14-1; 936. 14-1; 937. 14-1; 938. 14-1; 939. 14-1; 940. 14-1; 941.

Holyfield's fighting spirit threatened by age concern

Evander Holyfield's re-match with Michael Moorer tomorrow may be one fight too far for a great heavyweight. Ken Jones reports from Las Vegas.

The way Evander Holyfield goes about his work in the ring is not beautiful or complicated, but each performance raises fresh admiration for a remarkable fighting spirit.

However, Holyfield's warrior instinct and realisation that he is still not identified as one of the great heavyweight champions could be a recipe for disaster.

Because so many of Holyfield's 36 professional contests, on top of the 174 he fought as an amateur, have fallen into the brutal category, his enthusiasm for the possibility of a unifying bout against the World Boxing Council champion

Lennox Lewis and another collision with Mike Tyson is worrying.

Lewis's trainer, Emanuel Steward, is not alone in thinking that Holyfield, who recently turned 35, should have gone into retirement last June after his second victory over Tyson. "Evander is running a big risk," Steward said this week. "It is always difficult persuading fighters to quit, especially one so proud as this guy, but if he isn't careful we could have another Muhammad Ali tragedy. Of course, a unification contest suits our purpose but I'd hate to see it happen because Evander could get badly hurt. Lennox is simply too big and strong for him."

Almost exactly five years ago, the morning after Holyfield lost the undisputed championship to Riddick Bowe on a decision, I fell into conversation with his then trainer, Lou Duva. A hard fight, one of the best in recent heavyweight history, had been notable for the extent of

Holyfield's will, but there did not seem to be much of a future for him in boxing. "It's all over," Duva said. "Together with other members of the family organisation, Duva was convinced that Holyfield would settle for the retirement they advised. "There's no point in him going on," I remember Duva saying. "Evander's got more money than he'll ever need and if he wants to stay involved in boxing we'll find a place for him in the organisation."

Choosing to ignore Duva's advice, Holyfield returned to the ring seven months later against a limited opponent, Alex Stewart. In winning a 12-round decision he looked awful. People shook their heads and reflected on the fact that fighters are usually the last to know when time has run out for them.

When Holyfield signed to try and regain the World Boxing Organisation and International Boxing Federation belts from Bowe (the

champion had been stripped of the World Boxing Council championship for refusing to defend against Lewis) no hope was held out for him and it was feared that he would take a terrible beating.

A couple of nights before the contest at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas I came across Holyfield in a lift. It was quite late and he was with the lady, a doctor, he subsequently married. Holyfield smiled and said that all was well with him. The encounter persuaded me to believe that Holyfield was merely trying to prove something personally and would disappear permanently from boxing if Bowe again proved too much for him.

Instead, he defeated Bowe before fighting in events that eventually caused people to think again about where a man who has had three separate reigns as champion stood in the all-time heavyweight rankings.

The loss of his titles to Michael

Moorer figures as much in an assessment of Holyfield's status as the superiority he twice established over Tyson. Consequently, when Holyfield goes to his corner against Moorer tomorrow for the WBA and IBF titles they hold respectively, he will again have questions to answer. Was his defeat by the man from Detroit due to a shoulder injury or an undetected illness that led to concern, later removed, that he was suffering from a heart condition? Or was it simply that Holyfield could not overcome the difficulties posed by Moorer's southpaw stance?

For all his shortcomings that night, Holyfield is convinced that he did enough to win a close contest. "The judges didn't see it that way," he said, "and I lost the titles. You can't erase what is in the record book so above all else this is an opportunity to redeem myself."

The southpaw thing really wasn't that much of a problem. I just

wasn't myself in that fight." Holyfield was sitting on the apron of a ring in which he had gone three rounds with one of his four sparring partners. As usual he wore a serene expression. "When people ask how I could possibly have lost to Moorer, they should realise that a lot of things went on. I had injuries, especially in my shoulder, but I thought I could win without giving my all and didn't want to ask for a postponement. I allowed that to happen so I can't blame Moorer for my failure. When you lose it's your fault. There is no excuse."

If Holyfield's preparation for this contest has not been charged with the intensity that Tyson aroused, he is not taking Moorer lightly. "Tyson is a much stronger man than Moorer," he said. "If I choose I can push Michael into a position where he can be hit. Against Tyson, I could sit back and fight my fight because I knew he was going to be there.



Holyfield: Remains keen to meet Lewis and Tyson
Photograph: Reuters

With Michael being a little awkward, I will have to press things. I need to come out and set the tempo immediately.

What Holyfield must also do is think seriously about what the hardest and most dangerous of sports, one that should never be referred to as a game, might eventually do to him.

Llanelli still in awe of the legends of '72

Stradey Park's consecration as a rugby shrine was inspired by a single sporting miracle: Llanelli's defeat of Ian Kirkpatrick's All Blacks a quarter of a century ago. Tomorrow, the Scarlets will attempt a repeat performance against Sean Fitzpatrick's tourists.

Chris Hewett found the link between past and present in Gareth Jenkins, the current Llanelli coach who played himself into Welsh folklore back in 1972.

the wordsmith enjoying his umpteenth pint, you will see one enormous photograph of Delme Thomas and his 1972 Llanelli unforgettable. They were the side who saw off New Zealand and, in so doing, instigated a mass, day-long bender of such mighty excess that Thomas himself would have been forced to seek refuge at a health farm.

Gareth Jenkins was one of Delme's heroes. Then a lean, languid flank forward, and relatively inexperienced at 21, he tore into the All Blacks without fear or favour on that emotion-charged afternoon. Together with the likes of Derek Quinell and Tom David, he stopped a vaunted New Zealand pack in its tracks. Roy Bergiers scored the only try of the game, Phil Bennett and Andy Hill kicked five points between them, and Llanelli sneaked it 9-3. Such is the stuff of legend.

Tomorrow Jenkins will watch from his coach's vantage point, just as the great Carwyn James did 25 years ago, as a very different Scarlets side, less gifted than their forebears but no less enthusiastic, attempt a repeat of the unimaginable.

"I've got to take my memories out of the equation," Jenkins said this week. "I can't afford to get all misty-eyed and nostalgic about what happened in '72, even though it was one of the greatest rugby days anyone could have shared in. This is a special occasion in its own right and what I have to do is impress upon the players that



History men: Llanelli's Delme Thomas and Derek Quinell (centre) prepare to make the ball available during their side's victory over the All Blacks in 1972

Photograph: Western Mail

they are about to play the hardest, most physical game they will ever encounter."

That detachment will not be easy for Jenkins, as he well knows. "The place is awash with nostalgia. Tonight, the club is hosting a black tie dinner for 800 people to mark the anniversary of the '72 game and, as far as I know, every one of the Scarlets who played that day will be there. The very fact that we are the one club side to be given a fixture with the All Blacks on this tour gives the

match an extra something and I suppose it is human nature to compare this to our day under Delme and Carwyn.

"But it's not comparable because you can't repeat history. You reflect on your past but live in the present and what gives tomorrow its unique flavour has more to do with what happens in the future than what went before. The way tours are these days, I can't see too many more opportunities arising for club sides to play the best. The game is changing and, to my mind,

there will be a sadness about tomorrow's game as well as a joy. It may be the end of something."

Llanelli know all about mixed emotions. Up until last month, when a desperate share issue finally raised sufficient cash to drive the financial wolf from the door, the Scarlets were playing their rugby under the threat of imminent bankruptcy.

The gloom was almost tangible as the Scarlets tried manfully to raise themselves for matches played in a morgue-like atmosphere at a three-quarters

empty stadium and those gaps on the terraces spoke volumes. Llanelli is, after all, proud of its reputation as the most passionate rugby town in Britain.

"Our recent past has been well documented, and I don't want to dwell on it," Jenkins said. "Tomorrow, though, is what dreams are made of. It represents an opportunity for us to celebrate our emergence from all that financial pressure and to hold our heads high as a club with a future. I live in the town and am seen as a part of

it and people are definitely talking to me about Llanelli rugby with a genuine enthusiasm that perhaps wasn't there at the start of the season.

"As rugby people, we're obviously losing some of the qualities we once held dear. The short, Test-dominated nature of modern touring is symptomatic of that and some of the old camaraderie is going, no doubt about it. When I played, clubs were rugby-minded, not business-minded, and the game belonged to everyone. In the

professional age, there are going to be victims. God knows, we were nearly one ourselves.

"But this sort of match is irreplaceable, the very essence of rugby, amateur or professional. Television has made this new generation of All Blacks more familiar to the average supporter than even the greatest names of the past and to have them here at Stradey, to see them and to face them in the flesh, is wonderfully exciting. You can't ask for anything better than the chance to play the best."

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE

Fright times ahead for the power generation

When the nine remaining yachts line up on the grid for the start of the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race tomorrow, the nerves of the 108 crew members will be as taut as any on a Formula One track.

However, as Stuart Alexander reports from Cape Town, the difference will be that, instead of knowing it will all be over in under two hours, these competitors will be lucky if they can relax at any time over the next two weeks.

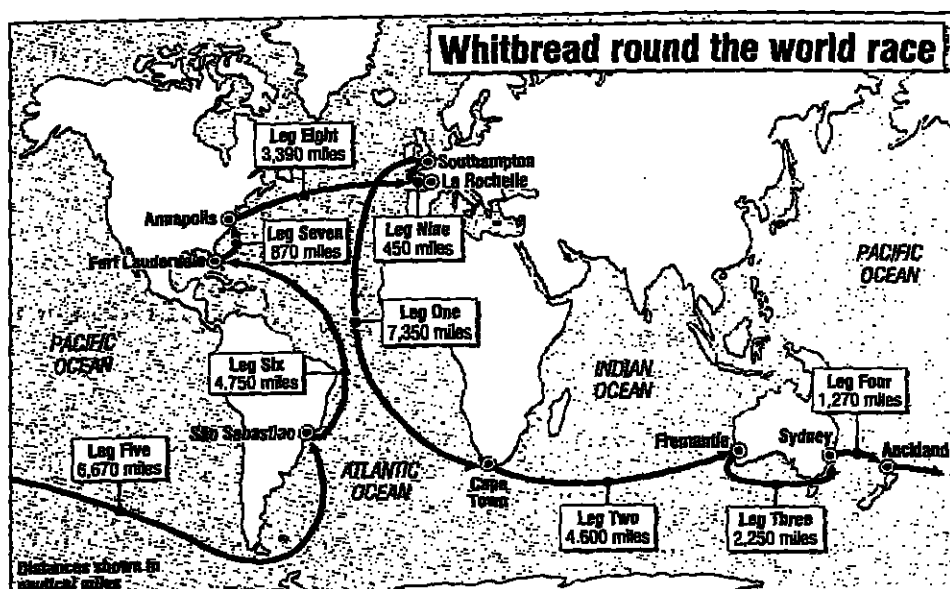
The 4,600 miles through the roller coaster waves of the Southern Ocean to Fremantle have always been punishing ones. This time the horsepower the boats can generate is greater, the stakes in terms of commercial sponsors and what they expect are higher.

the level of competition is tougher, and the reputations of some high-profile skippers more exposed.

Risk management will be high on the agenda as predictions of new distance records are tempered by a need to avoid going too far. The first leg from Southampton has already shown that these 60ft thoroughbreds can be even more of a handful than had been forecast.

The power generated by a new generation of hulls and the sails which drive them means the boats are on the edge for more of the time. But the name of the game is also pushing things to the limit and this run to Australia is one of the two legs that can produce big gains or big losses.

One of the striking features of the pre-leg build-up here has been the amount of time spent by the crews on their masts. Many were repairing damage, though none came as close to major failure as Toshiba. Paul Standbridge, who took over as skipper following the dramatic departure of Chris Dickson, found a four-inch crack about half-way up. "There was only



24 hours left in it," he said, "less in the wrong conditions."

The first-leg winner, EF Language, has fixed a bend further down, while Merit Cup had to correct a badly chewed top section.

All the yachts will carry the maximum 12 crew, whereas half went with only 11 on the first leg. They all know how

draining the physical demands can be, but this leg has the additional problem of the cold. Extra rations will be carried and much food eaten before the off.

Toshiba's Standbridge has a lot to prove in the role he has always coveted as a Whitbread skipper. When he arrived in Fremantle on the previous Whitbread, he was asked if at

any time on a very hairy leg he had been truly frightened. "No," came the classic reply. "It was much worse than that." Once again there will be frayed nerves as well as frayed kit.

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE Standings after first leg: 1 EF Language 2500; 2 Merit Cup 10; 3 Toshiba 977; 4 Silk Cut 84; 5 Chase Racing 72; 6 Toshiba 62; 7 American Challenge 48; 8 Swedish March 36; 9 EF Education 24; 10 Brunel Survey 12. *Withdrawn after first leg.

Those Whitbread boats nursing battered reputations are keen to get to sea again but, as the skipper of Merit Cup reveals, some crews could be in danger of overstepping the mark.

There are a number of boats here in Cape Town who are only too aware of what they will have to do on the second leg. The mood around the race village is that bad results in the first leg must be rectified.

Although this leg is only half the distance of the first, it carries the same number of points. The priority is to be in the first three. This is not a cop out in advance for not winning the leg. Consistency is the name of the game - consistently high placings in all nine legs.

For Merit Cup, however, it is not a time to be taking chances - no death before dishonour. There's no point in blowing the boat apart, al-



BY GRANT DALTON

his finger on it when he said Silk Cut and Merit Cup's sail inventories were too conservative. By that he meant that we lacked some of the specialist sails that operate at peak performance in a narrow band of wind angles and speed.

Some sails have very narrow operating peaks, but they can deliver a significant speed advantage; in some instances half a knot. That's a huge difference. Over 24 hours it's 12 miles and over 14 days it's 168 miles.

The withdrawal of America's Challenge because of cash problems has allowed us to add Jared Henderson to the crew. The second leg has fewer tactical choices for navigators. The first decision is how aggressively you dive south looking for the stronger westerlies. Then you have to decide how late you leave the push north to Fremantle.

No one will sail the shorter Great Circle route - it's too far north. The fleet will go further south to catch the stronger breeze but where the distance to sail is greater. The question is how far south.

number: 46.
 (see).

TOTAL EACH TIER
£4,049,432
£1,345,976
£778,736
£1,690,956
£4,814,380
£12,579,480

down to nearest £1: £22,270.

11 percent

Ferguson faces Uefa censure as Irwin misses six weeks

Alex Ferguson's fury at the rugged tactics of Feyenoord on Wednesday is unlikely to subside in the light of news that Uefa could investigate the Manchester United manager's touchline confrontation with his Dutch counterpart on Wednesday. Guy Hodgson reports.

Anyone who has seen Alex Ferguson's anger take full flight will testify it is not a comfortable experience. Ruddy with rage, he

will put his face close to his target and vent his emotions with an explosion of words.

Geert Meijer, the caretaker coach of Feyenoord, would have got Ferguson on full power on Wednesday but for the intervention of United's assistant manager, Brian Kidd, who held his boss back from a potentially damaging confrontation.

Even with Kidd's moderating influence, Meijer appeared to spit his chewing gum at the United manager while Ferguson was furious at Feyenoord's vindictiveness which culminated in Denis Irwin being carried off with a knee injury eight minutes from the end of the English champions' 3-1 win.

Insinuating that Meijer lacked "principles", he described his thinking as "insane".

Irwin will be out for six weeks after Paul Bosvelt's tackle. The full-back had an X-ray on his left knee yesterday and will undergo further tests to assess the full extent of the damage and determine whether there is ligament damage.

Ferguson stopped his players exchanging shirts at the end of the match and condemned several other harsh challenges that included Gary Neville and Henning Berg being elbowed in the face. "The referee was in a very lenient mood," he said. "I think he could have given a couple of red cards."

All of which will be of interest to Uefa. But European football's governing body is bound to study reports from the referee, Hungary's Sandor Puhl, Uefa delegate Herman Selbert, referee's observer Karlo Linboe and the fourth official, Atilla Hanacek, before considering action. "Once we have seen them," a Uefa official confirmed, "we can decide whether there is anything we need to look at further."

What needed no confirmation was Ferguson's rage to succeed. At 56 (his birthday is New Year's Eve) and already certain of a listing among the great managers, some men would be seeking a quieter life. Not

him. His will is the reason why his team get better. No player will get complacent while he can still be genuinely frightened by the anger of the man who picks the team.

And at the moment there seems to be little argument that United are getting better. Last season there was a feeling they won the Premiership almost by default, profiting from the failings of others, but this time they have struck the domestic front early, and are the only team in the Champions' League with a 100 per cent record.

When Ferguson did calm down enough to allow himself quiet satisfaction, he saw ample evidence in Rotterdam of

improvement. The tempo of the team was not to his liking at the start but they upped a gear at his behest and, hey presto, they were three goals in front.

"Maybe that's part of the learning process," he said, "handling matches that have a slow pace to them." He will have been happy, too, that only Paul Scholes lost his composure amid the flying Dutchmen to get a yellow card.

No one has improved more dramatically than Andy Cole, although his machine-gun burst probably owes more to forgetfulness than learning. He has been shackled by a fear of failure, but stumbling upon some confidence has helped him

accrue eight goals in three matches. The man who found every way to miss suddenly does not know how to.

"We were a bit fortunate with the first goal," Ferguson said, "although it was a marvellous pass and Andy Cole's pace made it. He troubled them all night. He was always a threat."

As Cole is able to keep a striker of such rich promise as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer on the substitutes' bench, yesterday's reports that United had inquired about the asking price of Dynamo Kiev's Andrei Shevchenko was just that - an idle inquiry. He could not play in the Champions' League this season anyway and only an

incurable gambler would pay £1.2m for a relatively untried striker, notwithstanding his hat-trick against Barcelona on Wednesday.

If Cole is becoming the fully-valued £7m man, then Ferguson has strength in depth in that department, just as he has an embarrassment of quality full-backs. Irwin, whose injury is less serious than was first feared, will miss United's match at Highbury on Sunday but his deputy is England's Phil Neville, while John Curtis and Michael Clegg are next in the queue.

Arsenal, United's nearest rivals but stuttering without Dennis Bergkamp, can only look and weep.

Kiev protest over poor treatment that backfired

When Barcelona subjected their Champions' League visitors, Dynamo Kiev, to shabby treatment this week, all they did was fire up the Ukrainians and sow the seeds of a disastrous defeat. Rostislav Khotin reports on the background to the Spaniards' elimination from Europe.

Dynamo Kiev have lodged a formal protest with Uefa over their treatment in Barcelona for Wednesday's European Cup Champions' League Group C encounter.

However, the Kiev side said that the poor hospitality had helped them turn the tables and hand the Spanish League leaders a 4-0 thrashing at the Nou Camp.

The Dynamo coach Valery Lobanovsky, a dour disciplinarian who rarely betrays any satisfaction, said putting seven unanswered goals past Barcelona in the space of two weeks proved that the Ukrainian champions were now a match for Europe's finest.

The Dynamo team were held up for two hours by customs and immigration officials at Barcelona airport on Tuesday, given a sub-standard training pitch and then ordered off another ground by Spanish police, a Dynamo spokesman, Alexei Semenenko, said.

But the disruption to Dynamo's preparations backfired as it added anger to Kiev's determination to consolidate their grip on the "group of death", and knock Barcelona out of the European Cup.

"I don't have to tell you what the mood was after all those problems," Semenenko said, adding that Dynamo officials, among them the former president of Ukraine, were given poor seats. "Barcelona wanted to scalp us," he said. "But they took their own scalp."

Dynamo, 3-0 up by half-time thanks to an Andrei Shevchenko hat-trick, coasted home with a fourth goal from Sergei Rebrov against a Barcelona side reduced to 10 men early in the second half when Sergi was sent off.

The Ukrainians won an ovation from those Spanish fans who had not drifted away long before the end.

"We showed will and character and have proved we can play as equals with the great names of European soccer," Lobanovsky said.

Indeed, denied full points from four games only by two late Newcastle United goals, Dynamo lead the group with 10 points, three ahead of PSV Eindhoven, who travel to Kiev for a potential group decider on 26 November.

Newcastle's striking deficiencies, page 29

Training bust-up disrupts Celtic

Celtic's preparations for tomorrow's Old Firm game have been badly disrupted by a training ground bust-up between Tosh McKinlay and the Swedish international striker, Henrik Larsson, yesterday.

The two clashed during a five-a-side game, with the incident apparently resulting in Larsson sustaining a bloody nose. It is understood that McKinlay, a Scottish international who has lost his place recently to the Frenchman,

Stéphane Mahé, immediately left the training ground without showering or getting changed.

Larsson later left the country bound for Sweden, but the club stressed that this had nothing to do with the incident at the training ground, but that he was going to attend the funeral of his father-in-law.

The Celtic general manager, Jock Brown, admitted an incident had taken place but insisted: "Morale in the camp could not be better."



Barcelona's Rivaldo (right) attempts to avoid the close attentions of Oleg Luznyy of Dynamo Kiev at the Nou Camp on Wednesday. Photograph: AFP

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD
No. 3450, Friday 7 November By Sparks Thursday's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
21							
22							
23							
24							
25							
26							
27							
28							
29							

ACROSS

- 1 Clotwork making best of dodgy breakfast (6)
- 2 Zest for life - see it in Mediterranean country (8)
- 3 Ballet dancing also requiring broad, level area (9)
- 4 Take in dress, having got bigger? (5)
- 5 Pinpoints changes to scale (7)
- 6 Welcome break especially needed in ceremonial observance (7)
- 7 Poles entertained in bishop's office showing taste? (5)
- 8 Contracted to clothe king in purple and scarlet (8)
- 9 Reinforce lock following objection (8)
- 10 Small carnivore going after Channel Islands surgeon
- 11 Leading lady takes drugs (7)
- 12 One's required for audition, naturally (7)
- 13 Superfluous ornament makes Father sick (5)
- 14 Dystuff Greek character's kept in container of solid aluminium (9)
- 15 Sweet family put in cold storage? (3,5)
- 16 Marital relations? (2-4)
- 17 DOWN
- 18 Upper-class gentleman originally wearing a sword (8)
- 19 River where Roman originally crossed over (7)
- 20 Swallow a little mud in river - medical attention needed (9)
- 21 Address just below round-

about, it's reported (8, 6)
A foreign soldier's accepting English protection (5)
Admire unusual dollies (7)
American in Kenya, possibly heading east (6)
Untruthful kids giving offence? (5, 9)
Row about policemen turning up outside Number Ten is a digression (9)
Loitering outside derelict multi, needing some sort of incentive (8)
Take a run through country in east - this one? (7)
Mountain girl's about to give us flowering plant (7)
Look thus, if upset? (6)
Endless depression associated with one dwelling in the far north? (5)

© Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Welling.
Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 540370.
Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.
Friday 7 November 1997

Saracens contemplate life without linchpin Lynagh

It has not been the best of weeks for Saracens. Seventy-two hours after confessing to operating losses of £2.2m, Waford's rugby kings are being forced to contemplate the unthinkable: Michael Lynagh's early retirement. Chris Hewett reports.

Michael Lynagh, the veteran World Cup-winning outside-half and still among the best three or four playmaking stand-offs in the game, will decide before Christmas whether to call time on his magnificent career.

If the 34-year-old Australian opts for pipe and slippers, his ambitious colleagues at Saracens - joint top of the Premiership - will be faced with a hole far bigger than the one blown in the bank account of their backer, Nigel Wray, by the seven-figure deficit revealed earlier this week.

Lynagh admitted last night that he was considering packing it in at the end of the season. "There comes a time when you have to say thanks very much and go and do something else," he told Sky's *Rugby Club*.

"I'm tossing up whether or not this will be my last season and I would like to decide before Christmas as to which way I'm going to go. There are people I have to talk to about it; I'm playing well and enjoying it and I feel we're going to

have a good season but maybe that's a good time to get out."

Should Lynagh quit in May, he will have played only two of his three contracted seasons. It would leave Sarries with a major personnel problem, especially as they have their sights firmly fixed on a Heineken Cup place next year. Last season, their Heineken challenge started to peter out as soon as Lynagh began to struggle with injury and the European Cup is no place to be without a top-drawer performer in the No 10 shirt.

The fitness problems affecting two other front-line Sarries, Richard Hill and Kieran Bracken, were instrumental in persuading Clive Woodward, the England coach, to delay naming his squad for the Test with Australia tomorrow week and the Emerging England fixture with the All Blacks at Huddersfield three days later.

Both Hill, a prime candidate for the open-side flank, and Bracken, pushing hard at scrum-half, came through comeback matches against Cambridge University on Tuesday, but Woodward wants them watched at Northampton this weekend.

Both players are likely to feature prominently in this season's Five Nations' Championship, a hardy annual that will soon carry more financial clout than ever before as a result of a new sponsorship deal announced yesterday. Lloyds TSB will pay £12m to attach its name to the 1999 and 2000 tournaments and the group has secured an option for 2001 and beyond.

In addition, Lloyds TSB has agreed to back English, Welsh and Irish home matches in this season's competition as well as the two forthcoming England-New Zealand Tests, and will also support a number of World Cup qualifying matches next autumn. Allan Hossie, the chairman of the Five Nations committee, described it as a "ground-breaking deal".

There has been any amount of financial "ground-breaking" in recent months and English rugby, in particular, is smiling from ear to ear. Nike, Allied Dunbar and Tetley Bitter have all signed multi-million pound contracts and only this week, the Cheltenham and Gloucester group agreed yet another seven-figure deal to fund a new competition to provide 20 leading teams with meaningful rugby during the hectic international programme.

Five Nations cash will be shared equally among the participating countries, although the situation is complicated by a unilateral French sponsorship deal that stretches well into 1999.

Argentina are to push for inclusion in the Tri-Nations series, following Italy's success in gaining admission to the Five Nations. The South Americans are concerned that they are becoming the poor relations of southern hemisphere rugby and will lobby influential delegates from New Zealand, Australia and South Africa at a conference in Buenos Aires this weekend.

Llanelli's legends, page 28

MORSE

Open

Your mainframe has gone to meet its maker. Now you have open systems, client/server architecture, distributed processing - call it what you will.

It works. But now there are 300 budding IT Directors on the network doing their own thing. And it's your job to manage it.

View

Hewlett-Packard's OpenView is a suite of tools that works as your eyes and ears on the network. OpenView can also distribute software, reduce system bottlenecks and fix faults. What's more, it looks after multiple platforms, including UNIX and NT.

Prevent your "Open" dream becoming your worst nightmare. Call to arrange a visit to our Enterprise Computing Centre to see OpenView in action.



Morse Data
0800 22 88 88

THE

INSIDE TODAY



New York ways to you buy. page 20

talks to and Chris Hamilton is still a page 13

TODAY

One-stop

One-stop... The Government... vote in... polling... day from...

Rwandan

A Rwanda... rape... been... with...

Call for F

The controversy... Formula One... calls for an... leading... Labour... Government...

Raspberries

Some of the top... embarrassed... awards - the... portrayal of...

The Eve... page 5



Pe

صلى الله عليه وسلم